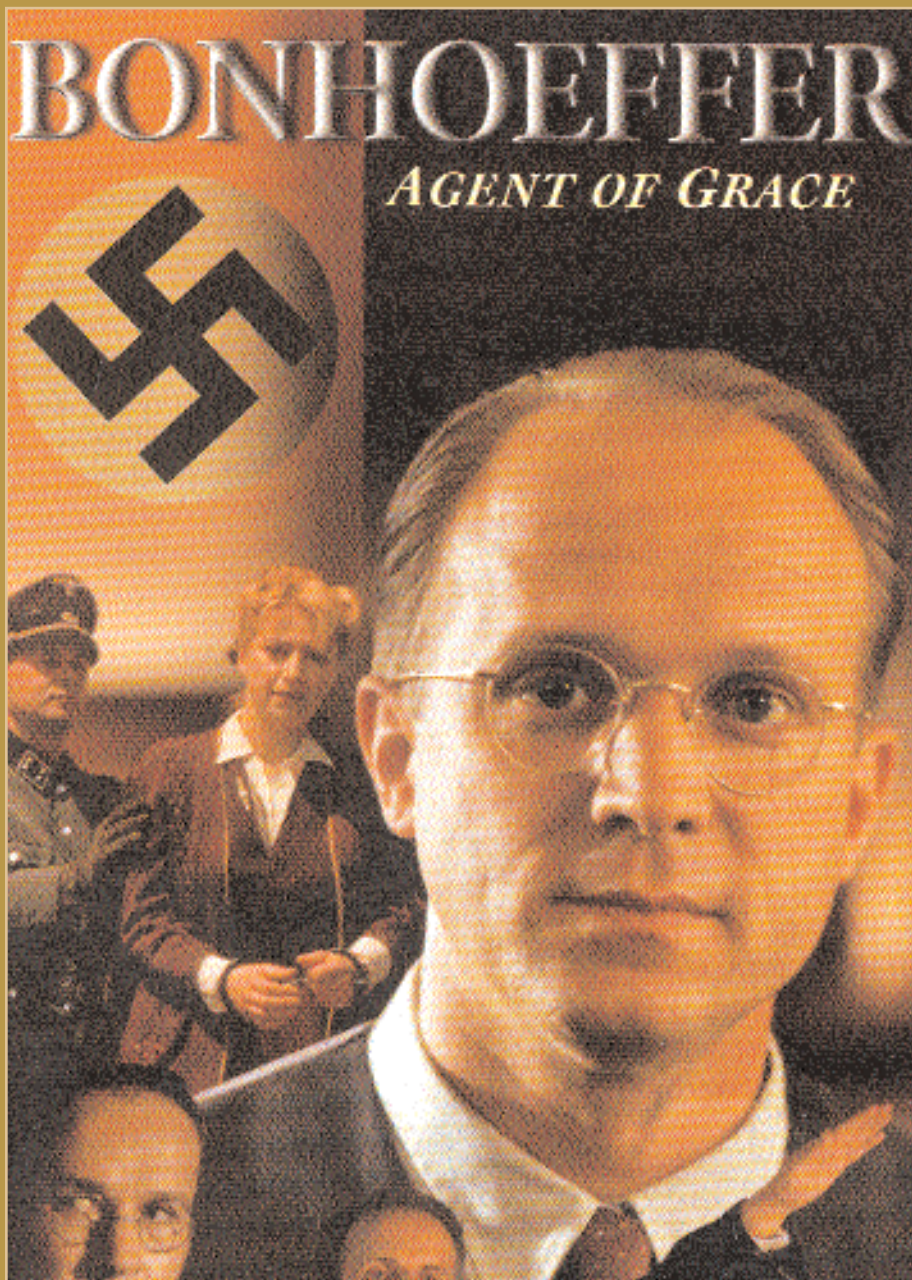


Christian Library

J O U R N A L



THIS ISSUE FEATURES:

- From Germany to the Sudan
- New Books for Little Ones
- A Few Clicks Away to Fun
- Reference Books for the School
- Classics Revisited
- Good Literature, Right Standards
- Renewed Vigor
- Reviews, Reviews, Reviews...



A Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

What a busy three weeks this has been, since we decided to go ahead with putting CLJ online! Hiring a web designer, learning new software, copying, pasting, and formatting text to make it easy on the eyes. And most of all, finding we had accumulated enough material to put out three issues of CLJ almost simultaneously.

By now you should have received our announcement about the change. We hope library subscribers will print out the PDF version, and make CLJ available to their patrons. We who work on the journal feel there is something for librarians, teachers, students, parents, home schoolers... something for all Christians who are interested in books and reading.

The response from around the world as we went online was heartening. Among the first hundred to register were librarians, teachers, and administrators from every continent. They made up almost 50% of the initial list, probably because both ACSI and CSI alerted their schools overseas of the availability of CLJ.

Would you like to play a part? Like to write an article for us, related somehow to books, authors, libraries? Like to become a reviewer? The more reviewers we have, the more titles we can review. Email me if you're interested. And read our reviewer guidelines on the web site.

Our prayer now is that CLJ will directly or indirectly bless God's people and their children, and that includes you!

In Christ's love,

Nancy L. Hesch

Nancy L. Hesch
Editor and Publisher

A faint, stylized illustration of a desk with books, a lamp, and a computer, serving as a background for the signature and name.

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Cover illustration from the video *Bonhoeffer : Agent of Grace*, © 1999. Reprinted by permission of Vision Video.

Published in the U.S.A.

A Word from the Editor: Andrew M. Seddon



From Germany to the Sudan

Many people are familiar with the books written by Corrie Ten Boom about her experiences in World War Two helping Jewish people escape from Nazi-occupied Holland. Eventually caught and sentenced to the concentration camps, Corrie survived, but her sister didn't. German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer likewise paid the penalty for his beliefs and for opposing Hitler. Even now, a half century later, the world has yet to come to grips with the atrocities of the Holocaust or, equally as sadly, learned the lessons of that conflict. In many areas of the world people are still persecuted for their race or their beliefs.

World War Two and the Nazis don't often make their way onto my reading lists, but recently several books have. One was *Hitler's Cross* by Erwin Lutzer (Moody 1995). This book examines the role of the Christian church in Nazi Germany; how it lost its focus and hence its power to prevent the unfolding tragedy. While not neglecting mention of the faithfulness of some who stood up to oppose the evil of

the Nazi regime, the book documents the church's weak capitulation to nationalism.

The second book to occupy me was *The Doctor and the Damned* by Albert Haas (St Martin's Press, 1984). Haas was a Jew of French and Hungarian descent, and a physician in the French Army. He and his wife played an active role in the French Resistance until they were captured and sentenced to the concentration camps. There, Haas ministered to fellow prisoners under the most degrading conditions. Both he and his wife survived the war, and the book unflinchingly documents the atrocities of the Nazi's Godless regime, and the spark of hope that enabled many to survive the onslaught of evil.

Resurrecting the Third Reich by Richard Terrell (Huntington House, 1994) discusses parallels between our society and that of Nazi Germany. As our culture leans towards one of two opposing poles—the empty spirituality of the collected "New Age" movement on one hand, and God-denying secular humanism on the other—Terrell sees cultural despair and scorn for traditional Christian faith. Despite the book's sensationalized cover, Terrell presents a reasoned argument that the Christian church must adhere to a strong doctrinal foundation if it is to be a stabilizing factor in society and resist the many

theological, philosophical, and cultural factors that seek to undermine society.

It is important to remember that bright lights shone even in the darkest days of World War Two. One example occurs in the book *Beethoven's Hair* by Russell Martin (Broadway Books, 2000). While it may seem strange to think that a book about the wanderings of a lock of Beethoven's hair would contain Christian insights, the connection occurs because of the recounting of the response of the Danes to the intended Nazi roundup of Jews. A German officer alerted the Danish Resistance. The Danish church refused to sit on the sidelines.

"... Pastor Kjelgaard Jensen had read to his parishioners the letter that had been issued by the bishops of the Danish Lutheran church... It was the duty of church members, the letter instructed, to protest against the persecution of Denmark's Jews, because Jesus had been a Jew, because persecution was contrary to his command to love one's neighbors, and also simply because "persecution is contrary to the conception of justice that prevails in the Danish people.'" (p. 95). The Danish people responded, and the vast majority of Denmark's Jews were safely smuggled to neutral Sweden.

What is even more heartwarming is

what occurred at the end of the war when the exiled Jews returned home. "... the welcome [the Jewish Danes] received from their countrymen was nearly as extraordinary as the assistance they had been offered back when they made their secret escapes. In Copenhagen and throughout the nation, the refugees came home to find their houses and apartments secure and clean—even freshly painted in some cases—their pets and gardens well cared for, their kitchens filled with food, their jobs and their businesses eagerly awaiting their return." (p. 119). It would be hard to find a more thrilling example of Christ-like behaviour than that of the Danes—who saw the Jews not as a different race, but simply as fellow Danes of Jewish persuasion.

And yet, this is more than a heartwarming tale from history—it is a challenge that all Christians are called to emulate. As we look around the world, there are many areas where persecution is the norm. One of the worst is the Sudan, where Sudanese Christians are tortured and killed for their faith with a brutality that matches that of the Nazis. Millions have been killed. Our pastor circulated a recent story from the *Truro Family News* (March 11, 2001) written by a member of the Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace and Justice Concerns, which tells the harrowing story of the Sudanese Christians—the atrocities to which they are

subjected, the faithfulness with which they hold the gospel, and—a fact which should cause us all to blush with shame—the indifference that the so-called "Christian" Western world shows to their plight. Here, if anywhere, is an opportunity for the church to unite, and, rather than meekly acquiesce to governmental indifference to evil, encourage our government and others to stand against persecution and injustice.

The Western governments are unconcerned. Are Christians of all denominations willing to take a stand as the Danes did against Nazi persecution of the Jews, or will the church remain silent, as the church in Nazi Germany, until it is too late? The choice is ours. This is what books teach us and why we read—it is so that we can learn from the mistakes of the past, and make a difference in the lives of people today.

New Books for Little Ones

by Lydia E. Harris

Parents, teachers, and caregivers will appreciate Baby Blessings, Standard Publishing's new book series for infants and toddlers. The collection is designed for four different age levels: newborn and up, one year and up, eighteen months and up, and two years and up. The books were created in consultation with an educational psychologist who specializes in early childhood cognitive development. They focus on simple Bible stories or Christian values.

Newborn and Up

WHERE IS LITTLE LAMB? 0784711321, \$7.99. This soft toy book stimulates baby's senses of sight, touch, and hearing. Infants can touch the woolly lamb with floppy ears and tail on the cover and shake the book to hear the rattle. Puffy pages are made of bright yellow cotton trimmed with red fabric. In the story, children search for Little Lamb in a stroller, chair, tub, and on a blanket. Instead they find teddy, kitty, duckie, and puppy. Their search is rewarded when they find Little Lamb in bed and learn Jesus is their Good Shepherd. Simple drawings by Angie Sage illustrate this cheerful book.

BABY'S BIBLE FRIENDS, 078471133X, \$12.99. A thick fabric playtime book includes a handle and Velcro closure. Short rhyming phrases and illustrations by Simone Abel tell the stories. Infants can crinkle the tail of Jonah's whale, move the stuffed bear in Noah's ark, and discover baby Jesus in the manger. They also learn from Psalm 104:24: "The earth is filled with God's creatures." Flaps teach object permanence, and textured elements

stimulate the sense of touch. Babies will enjoy exploring this colorful, fun-filled book.

BABY'S WORLD, 0784711313, \$6.99. A soft, accordion-fold crib book that unfolds into a long strip. Made in high contrast colors of red, white, and black—the first colors a baby can distinguish—it is visually stimulating and helps baby's eyes focus. Simple illustrations by Angie Sage of a bear, flower, ball, hands, puppy, and face are paired with three-word phrases. A baby-safe mirror helps infants identify themselves. The book concludes with Psalm 139:14: "I am wonderfully made!" Velcro fasteners make it easy to attach this book to baby's crib.

One Year and Up

Written by Lynn Moore and illustrated by Alex Ayliffe, **WHO'S ON NOAH'S ARK?** 0784711348, \$10.99. A soft tub book made of bright turquoise, quick-drying taffeta. Children will enjoy the shiny, crinkly stuffed turtle on the cover attached by Velcro and a string. Turtle invites his underwater friends, a whale, octopus, angelfish, and sea star, to come and see his new friends from Noah's ark. They see giraffes, camels, elephants, and zebras leave the ark two by two. The back cover includes: "The waters covered the Earth" (Genesis 7:24). The book was designed to develop manual dexterity, take another's point of view, and learn names and features of animals. It's fun to play with in and out of the tub.

The following three sturdy board books,

with soft fabric binding around the edges, are safe for babies to chew on:

JESUS LOVES ME, 0784711356, \$6.99. Includes lyrics of this familiar song accompanied by photographs of preschoolers from different nationalities playing, reading, and eating. The rhyme and rhythm of the song help develop language skills. The last page includes a slide-in frame to insert the child's photo and reinforces that Jesus loves baby, too.

ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL, 0784711372, \$8.99. A touch-and-feel book illustrated by Rebecca Thornburgh. With words from the song by that title, it can be sung or read. Children will enjoy feeling the woolly lamb, soft flowers, shiny river, and textured garden produce. It concludes, "How great is God Almighty, who has made all things well." A child-safe mirror allows children to see themselves as an important part of God's creation and develop a positive self image.

HOW BIG IS GOD'S LOVE?, 0784711364, \$6.99. A photo frame book with a place to slide in a family picture. Written by Sally Lloyd-Jones and illustrated by Moira Maclean, it teaches young children of God's great love. They learn God's love is bigger than the biggest hill, taller than the tallest tree, longer than the longest river, deeper than the deepest sea, higher than the sky, and greater than a family's love for their child. It concludes with "God's love is SO BIG!" The use of adjectives along with rhythm and repetition develop memory and prereading skills.

Eighteen Months and Up

Young children will enjoy the traditional and contemporary prayers in **LITTLE PRAYERS AND GRACES**, 0784711399, \$7.99. Each cardboard page is illustrated by Anne Kennedy and highlighted with holographic foil pictures of familiar objects. Simple rhyming prayers teach children to be thankful and pray for themselves and others. This shining, bright book for will delight little ones.

HOW MANY SHEEP? 0784711380, \$8.99. A sturdy board book with an abacus attached across the top. Children can move the five plastic sheep as they count sheep pictured on each page. Favorite Bible stories are told in one-line sentences along with Scripture references for further reading. Toddlers are introduced to the story of creation, Noah's ark, Moses in the basket bed, Jesus feeding the crowd, and Jesus blessing the children. Written by Alice Joyce Davidson and illustrated by Frances Cony. Moving the sheep teaches the concept of grouping and counting from one to five.

Written by Sue Kueffner and illustrated by Simone Abel, **NOAH'S NOISY ARK**, 0784911402, \$10.99, is a 18-page peek-a-boo flap book. Toddlers discover a variety of lively animals as they lift flaps on the sturdy cardboard pages. They learn the sounds of lions, ducks, pigs, crickets, peacocks, mice, and doves. This interactive book tells the story of Noah's ark and fosters development of language and memory skills.

Two Years and Up

Author Alice Joyce Davidson and illustrator Cathy Beylon created two shaped board books for children two and up. Both are surprise-flap books made of sturdy cardboard pages. **A BASKET BED FOR BABY MOSES** tells the story of Moses, Miriam, a princess, and God's plan for Moses' life. **FIVE LITTLE LOAVES AND TWO LITTLE FISH** relates the special miracle of Jesus feeding the five thousand with a little boy's lunch. Both stories include short rhyming phrases and flaps with surprise pictures and words beneath. The flaps reinforce object permanence, and the books help children develop language and sequencing skills. Children will enjoy these fun books (\$7.99 each) with colorful illustrations.

Lydia E. Harris, freelance writer in Seattle, Washington, enjoys reading these books to her grandson.

A Few Clicks Away to Fun!

FUN IS EDUCATIONAL

by Lisa Wroble



Ever hear children say learning can't be fun? Know any adults who think computer fun is 'empty'—time wasted with no educational value?

Advocates of both camps need to see some of these websites, where familiar characters and programs guide children through enjoyable—and educational—leisure time fun.

Noggin, www.noggin.com a collaboration between Sesame Street and Nickelodeon, includes items from the archives of both partners plus original stories in the form of "chronicles." Educational consultants advise on the content which includes numerous games, word challenges, on-going stories, Noggin TV schedules, and the "Lab." Kids can make their websites, comic strips, logo, or animation at the "Lab." The site also includes a link to Noggin for Preschoolers.

Whit's End,

<http://www.whitsend.org/> from Focus on the Family, is on-line fun based on the fast-paced adventure featuring Whit, Eugene, Connie, and the other Adventures in Odyssey characters. Check out the soda shop, the library, or visit the Imagination Station, in addition to reading more about the characters or the latest show.

Pockets magazine has a fun site produced by the Upper Room <http://www.upperroom.org/pockets/> It includes info on characters regularly featured in the magazine, plus links to games and activities—including the Art Gallery—and Capp's Calendar. This includes ideas for things to do, plus a Bible scripture, for each day of the month.

Keys for Kids, the devotional magazine for children, has a website at <http://cbh.smartbusiness.org/kfk/> The site includes a new daily devotional story, archives of past issues, Quickie Quizzes arranged alphabetically, and information about

the Children's Bible Hour radio program.

KidzPlace <http://www.kidzplace.org/> is a great site if you have a fast modem and PC. It requires Flash as part of your browser but provides a download link if you don't have it. KidzPlace has a section for Children's program leaders as well as a main section for children including an interactive a "show and tell" section.

School Librarian's Corner

..... Welcome back to the School Library Corner of
Christian Library Journal.

.....
by Leslie Greaves Radloff



Reference Books for the School Library

The United States of America: A State-by-State Guide; Millie Miller and Cyndi Nelson, 0590043749, \$14.95, 64 pages, Scholastic, 2000.

Middle Grades, High Quality

Colorful maps and along with information about each of the states makes this volume appealing to young readers. Entries provide standard information: state bird, state tree, and state flower along with lesser known information about each state. Middle grade students and teachers of U.S. geography will find this useful for state reports and information about particular states. Students will not be deterred by pages which seem cluttered: map in the center with information surrounding it. An index and drawings of state flags makes this a useful tool.

Scholastic Encyclopedia of Space, Jaqueline Mitton and Simon Mitton, Scholastic, 1999, 0590592270,

\$14.95

MS/HS, Good Quality

A slim volume, as are all of the Scholastic reference works reviewed here, the *Encyclopedia of Space* gives an overview of the solar system and each planet. Pages are colorful with much information written in a readable style and printed in a type face and color that is easy for students to read. The reading level puts this at fifth grade and above, though much information can be gathered by using the pictures and diagrams. The volumes have eye appeal, and if the subject is of interest, students will read what they can. Purchase one for the reference shelf and one to circulate; then encourage classroom teachers to buy a copy so that it is readily available. Bindings look sturdy, but with heavy use the cover will show wear and tear.

The Big Bang theory, and evolution is presented here, as in almost every science book, but that does not detract from the usefulness of the book for facts about the solar system, planets, and the galaxy. The pages on stargazing and star maps give young readers an introduction into the joys of astronomy.

Scholastic Encyclopedia of the

Civil War, Catherine Clinton, Scholastic, 1999, 0590372270, \$18.95

MS/HS, High Quality

Clinton's concise encyclopedia of the civil war is divided into five parts: one for each of the years of the war, 1861 -1865, and its aftermath. Within those pages readers find major events discussed with lesser known events described or explained in sidebars or captions. The endpapers showing a map of the Union and Confederacy with battles and Sherman's March to the Sea identified, is easy to turn to when reading the text. While not a comprehensive encyclopedia of the Civil War, it does provide information beyond that which is usually found in textbooks for this age group, and is written in an engaging style. Index, pictures with captions, and sidebars provide additional information. Will need a good reader.

Words That Built a Nation: A Young Person's Collection of Historic American Documents, Marilyn Miller, Scholastic, 1999, 059029881X, \$18.95

MS/HS, Good Quality

Scholastic has collected the documents mentioned in most

American history textbooks into one volume and reprinted them giving information about the writer or writers, and providing a place for what they call "response." For example, after the Consitution, the response tells readers what happened in the new country, i.e., that ratification was difficult, there was debate and it wasn't until New Hampshire ratified that the Consitution became the law of the land.

This information is touched on in social studies and history books, but the authors provide a framework for the documents and illustrate them with pictures not usually found in textbooks. The lesser known and more current documents will be welcomed by teachers who want to bring the voices of different thnic groups into the classroom, or those finding themselves teaching American 20th century history as well as that of the 18th and 19th.

Animal Fact File: Head-to-Tail Profiles of More Than 90 Animals, Dr. Tony Hare, Facts on File, 0816040168, \$18.95

MS/HS, Fair Quality

This animal book provides much information about well-known and lesser-known animals in a format which younger reader will find easy to read. Each two page spread talks about one animal, giving its name, where it lives, describing its habitat and showing the skeleton. A small chart tells readers classification, size, coloration, and features which are then pointed out on the drawing of the animal. One very nice detail shows the animal compared to an average human being. However, one

needs to remember that this animal is an import. All the animals of North America aren't found, and when found, the specific area in which they live may not be mentioned. The wolverine was said to live in Alaska, while the wolf in North America with no mention of specific area. This may be a picky point, but children don't always grasp the differences between English publications and those of the United States. Consider carefully weighing the information and visual appeal with volumes which might be more practical and specific to North America.

Children's Atlas, updated ed., David and Jill Wright, Facts on File, 0816044333, \$18.95, 96 pages

MS/HS, High Quality

Attractive, full color endpapers showing flags of countries from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe lead readers to pages of information on countries and continents of the world. A variety of illustrations and map projections are used in each section. Though the color of some of the illustrations seems pale, the information given will be useful to students studying geography. Pages contain a lot of information. They seem somewhat cluttered, but the maps themselves are very easy to read, as are their keys and legends. Political and physical maps have lines of latitude and longitude well marked along with a grid system of letters and numbers which can help younger readers locate places. The index also includes directions for its use. A welcome addition to the reference shelf.

The Children's Bible Encyclopedia, Mark Water, Baker, 1995, 0801044146, \$19.99

Elem., Good Quality

Children will find this an easy to use encyclopedia. The table of contents and index are divided into headings that are child friendly. For example, homes has four listings: caves and early homes; living in tents; village houses; and town houses as opposed to "townhouses." Children think like this. Each entry seems to have one full page beginning with the explanation of the word, then an example, Bible text where the word or idea was used, and explanation of other words or ideas presented. The one negative that comes to mind is that the illustrations seem cartoonlike and are rather washed out. Still, this would be a good addition to a Christian school or church library.

Kid Concordance: Big Ideas from the Bible and Where to Find Them, Rick Osborne with Ed Strauss and Kevin Miller, Zonderkidz, 1999, 0310224721, \$14.95

MS/HS, Good Quality

Definitions in this concordance are written in a chatty style that will appeal to young readers. Each word is defined, then a Bible text is used and explained with additional readings printed out for the reader. The final part of each entry is a "Didjknow?" which has insights by the authors into the topic discussed. It may be a question or explanation. While this provides further explanation, the informality of the way in which the question is printed seems to detract from the seriousness of the topic. The New International

Version is used and readers should be familiar with that.

While this would be a helpful volume, the colors of the pages, white with purple print, are not particularly attractive nor are the line drawings illustrations. A plus is the index which is patterned after those found in Bible concordances, showing the word followed by a description or explanation and then the Bible verses where it is used, though not in as detailed a manner as those found in Bibles or concordances for adults.

An Eyewitness to History : Slavery in America : From Colonial Times to the Civil War, Dorothy Schneider and Carl J. Schneider, Facts on File, 2000, 0816038635, \$65.00

HS, Good Quality

This comprehensive history of slavery in America includes an index, bibliography, short biographies of major figures in the slave trade and abolitionist movement, as well as first person accounts of slavery. The account begins in 1441 and continues through the end of slavery in 1865. This is heavy reading in many ways: the volume itself is indeed weighty, a little over 455 pages, but the content and description of what slavery involved makes this a volume for junior high school and up. Entries are clearly written with many illustrations and because many of the laws and bills are included in the section headed "Documents," readers will have many aspects of slavery together in one source.

The Write Stuff: A to Z of American Women Writers, Carol Kort, Facts on File, 2000, 0816037272, \$40.00

HS, Good Quality

Many, but not all, women writers are included in this volume. Users will recognize well-known writers from childhood such as Margaret Wise Brown, Louisa May Alcott, Yoshiko Uchida; from young adult reading Shirley Jackson and Willa Cather; as well as poets and writers for adults. Entries contain a brief biography of the subject, citing major works; many include photographs of the subject and give selections for future reading. The selection is however, eclectic. Many of the authors you would expect to see included are missing, and some who are listed are minor figures in the literary world. Yet this volume does provide a start for the student wanting to find out more information about authors. From here you will have to guide readers to *Something About the Author* and more comprehensive volumes. The selection is multi-cultural and spans many years of writing.

Leslie Greaves Radloff is the Media Specialist at Rondo Education Center in St. Paul, Minnesota. She has also worked in Christian school libraries, and has been a reviewer and writer for CLJ for several years.

Classics Revisited

by Sylvia Stopforth

For those of us who love everything about books - from the way they look and feel to the words and worlds they cradle between their covers - there is nothing quite like a re-issued classic. Nostalgia and anticipation converge happily as we reacquaint ourselves with, or introduce others to, old friends in fancy new jackets.

There is something for everyone in this list, from poetry to traditional fairytales to dear childhood companions.

So - get out your wish lists ...

Alice in Wonderland, by Lewis Carroll, illustrated by Lisbeth Zwerger. New York: North-South Books, 1999. HBB, \$19.95. 103 p.

Alice's adventures in Wonderland, by Lewis Carroll, compiled by Cooper Edens. (A Classic Illustrated Edition) San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2000. HBB, \$19.95. 139 p.

Now, here's a quandary: we must somehow choose between two lavishly-illustrated, large-format editions of Lewis Carroll's disorienting and oft-read tale of young Alice, who falls down a rabbit hole and encounters all manner of bizarre individuals and incidents.

The North-South edition boasts thick, white paper with generously-proportioned black type, and full-color illustrations by the award-winning Lisbeth Zwerger. Her work is witty and somehow restrained, almost elegant in its execution. She often uses unusual perspectives (Alice is sometimes just leaving the frame, or outgrowing it), encouraging readers familiar with the story to perhaps re-envision characters and events.

Her rather modern caterpillar, it should be noted, is perched on his mushroom holding a tiny cigarette in one of his many appendages, and a wine glass in the other. This might call for some explanations for the more observant among our young readers; but then, few children know what, exactly, a hookah is, so either way a brief discussion may be necessary.

Compiler Cooper Edens has taken a very different approach with his version. He has selected from among the work created by some of the best Alice illustrators during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, offering up a visual smorgasbord which includes the likes of Arthur Rackham, John Tenniel (the original illustrator), Margaret Tarrant, and more than twenty other accomplished artists. A few of these images suffer slightly from the reproduction process (resolution may lack sharpness, for example) but the variety of vision and color is nevertheless highly gratifying. This text could be used to explore the changing approaches to childrens' book illustration between 1865 and 1929. An index of artists and dates is provided by Edens.

Beauty and the Beast, retold by Geraldine McCaughrean and illustrated by Gary Blythe. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books Inc., 2000. HBB, \$15.95. unpaginated.

This book offers a re-telling as well as a re-imagining of this traditional tale about the transforming power of love. Artist Gary Blythe combines sweeping vistas with deep shadows; fantastic architectural details dwarf the soft, warm tones of the faithfully captured human figures. The Beast is properly beastly, and Beauty suitably lovely. Geraldine McCaughrean's version is true to the original, but is much more than a simple re-hashing. On the

contrary, her rendering is spare, haunting, and quite wonderful, quietly drawing the reader's attention to the important truths underlying this well-worn tale.

A child's garden of verses: a collection of scriptures, prayers, and poems featuring the works of Robert Louis Stevenson, with the artwork of Thomas Kinkade. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 1999. HBB, \$24.99. 208 p.

A Child's Garden of Verses is a cherished collection of poetic childhood reflections by Robert Louis Stevenson. Every library is bound to have several versions of this classic. This edition, however, is very special. For one thing, it also includes scripture passages, prayers, and treasured poems by Robert Browning, Christina Rossetti, and other well-known writers. In addition, this lovely book features the artwork of Thomas Kinkade, devout Christian and gifted artist.

His serene, glowing paintings, often depicting a country lane or garden path, invite the reader to enter in, and perhaps tarry awhile.

Brief biographies of Stevenson and Kinkade are provided, as well as useful indices to all the paintings and poems.

Franklin's classic treasury, by Paulette Bourgeois, illustrated by Brenda Clark. New York: Kids Can Press, 1999. HBB, \$15.95. 128 p.

Now we come to a more contemporary classic ...

Franklin the Turtle made his first debut in the 1980's. This text includes full-sized, full-color reproductions of the four Franklin titles published between 1986 and 1993, from *Franklin in the Dark* to *Franklin Is Bossy*.

Since Franklin first found the courage to crawl into his dark little shell - with help from friends and a night-light - his various escapades and crises have endeared him to many a child. So much so, in fact, that we always had a hard time keeping Paulette Bourgeois' reassuring tales on the shelf in the childrens' section of the public library.

We had a similar "problem" with Ludwig Bemelmans' Madeline series.

Madeline in America and other holiday tales, by Ludwig Bemelmans and John Bemelmans Marciano. New York: Scholastic, 1999. HBB, \$19.95. 112 p.

In *Madeline in America*, Madeline makes her first visit to the United States. An extravagant inheritance and whirlwind trip to larger-than-life Texas threaten Madeline's Parisian equanimity, but grandpapa's will makes wise provision for her continued schooling, in Paris, under the watchful eye of Miss Clavel, at least for the time being.

This Christmas treasury features the title story, begun by Ludwig Bemelmans in the 1950's and completed by his grandson, John Bemelmans Marciano, in the late 1990's. It also includes *The Count and the Cobbler* - a brief tale about a poor cobbler who is able to provide a special Christmas for his many children - a charming "Bemelmans Christmas Memory," by Ludwig's daughter, and, finally, *Sunshine*, another joint family effort in which we meet a curmudgeonly landlord and his new tenant, an elderly music teacher. It is the Christmas season in New York and in the end, after much to-ing and fro-ing, Mr. Sunshine and Miss Moore find that Peace on Earth is indeed possible.

Like all Madeline books, this volume will require extra vertical shelf space, but this should not pose much of a problem, as it will spend most of its time in circulation!

The Nightingale, by Hans Christian Andersen, translated by Anthea Bell, illustrated by Lisbeth Zwerger. New York:

North-South Books, 1999. HBB, \$15.95. unp.

A timeless fairytale, set in ancient China, *The Nightingale* is a simple yet powerful story of a bird whose song is so lovely, it can even charm death. Hans Christian Andersen's captivating fable also speaks to the importance of authenticity, forgiveness, and freedom.

His work is here illustrated by Lisbeth Zwerger (see *Alice in Wonderland*, above) with spare, delicate watercolors whose calm earth tones perfectly complement Andersen's uncluttered story.

Oliver Twist, by Charles Dickens, adapted by Naia Bray-Moffatt, illustrated by Ian Andrew. (Eyewitness Classics) London: Dorling Kindersley Ltd., 1999. HBB, \$14.95. 64 p.

Oliver Twist is surely one of Charles Dickens' most memorable characters. This highly abridged version of Dickens' novel - a heartrending but ultimately affirming account of a young boy forced to fend for himself in early Victorian London - will be accessible to some of our younger readers, with its large print and colorful illustrations. The entire cast of vivid and familiar characters springs to life between the numerous story aids, which include archival photographs, diagrams, and explanatory sidebars.

Some readers may find that these elements interrupt the flow of the story, but these additions will be welcomed by many teachers, and by those already familiar with the story, and interested in learning more about the context in which Dickens lived and wrote.

The Penguin book of classic children's characters. New York: Penguin Putnam Inc., 1997. HBB, \$35.00. 375 p.

Sure to become a bedtime favorite, *The Penguin Book of Classic Children's Characters* brings many of our dearest childhood friends together in one

satisfyingly robust volume.

The peace-loving Ferdinand the bull, such a disappointment to the proud matador, rubs shoulders here with Bemelman's original Madeline and many others, including Winnie-the-Pooh and some ill-bred bees, the ever-cheeky Peter Rabbit, and the irrepressible Pippi. It's a wonder the book's binding doesn't burst under the pressure of having to contain all this creative energy.

The handsome red cloth cover and golden ribbon are the perfect finishing touches, and the table of contents provides a delicious sneak peek of the fourteen wonderful tales on the menu.

Peter and the wolf, by Vladimir Vagin, from the symphony by Sergei Prokofiev. New York: Scholastic, 2000. HBB, \$15.95. unp.

Serfei Prokofiev's symphonic folktale, *Peter and the Wolf*, has delighted generations of children and adults with its spirited protagonist, Peter, who captures a wolf with the help of a courageous songbird.

Vladimir Vagin's detailed and vibrant pencil and watercolor illustrations serve as the ideal foil for his clean and unadorned rendition of this familiar tale. The more soft-hearted among our readers will appreciate Vagin's finale, as the duck, who was snapped up by the wolf, manages to share in the happy ending.

In the book's closing pages, readers will find a brief biography of Prokofiev as well as a helpful two-page spread providing the musical notes for the different melodies and instruments which represent the various characters in the symphony. A great resource for music teachers.

Peter Pan, by Sir J.M. Barrie, compiled by Cooper Edens. (A Classic Illustrated Edition) San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2000. HBB, \$19.95. 173 p.

Some literary characters briefly capture a reader's imagination, then move on, leaving only a faint impression to be relegated to the dim, dusty backrooms of memory; others move in and are there to stay, boldly staking their claim. J.M. Barrie's brilliant and unforgettable cast of characters, including Captain Hook, the persistent, ticking crocodile, Tinker Bell, Wendy, and of course, Peter Pan, belongs unquestionably in the second category.

Since 1911, Peter Pan has pranced confidently across the pages of countless editions of the book, and has flown across the stages of numerous theater and movie productions. It seems we cannot get enough of the boy who will never grow up.

As with compiler Cooper Eden's Alice (see above), this edition brings together the best of the best in terms of illustrators. Once again, the work of the original artist, in this case F.D. Bedford, is featured, along with that of many other gifted individuals who sketched, painted, and illuminated Neverland during the early 20th century.

Poetry for young people, by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow; edited by Frances Schoonmaker and illustrated by Chad Wallace. New York: Sterling Publishing Company, Inc., 1998. HBB, \$14.95. 48 p.

Editor Frances Schoonmaker has thoughtfully chosen some twenty-seven of Longfellow's most well-known poems for *Poetry for Young People*, including "Hiawatha's Childhood," "Paul Revere's Ride," and "The Slave's Dream." Some of the shorter selections are reproduced in their entirety, while others have been excerpted, to give young readers a manageable taste of the lengthier works.

Chad Wallace's artwork was created specifically for this text; its bold, broad strokes and deep hues convey a rustic sensibility, which suits the early 19th century ethos of this famous American wordsmith.

At the close of each poem, Schoonmaker inserts a helpful miniature glossary of unfamiliar terms. She has also penned a fairly in-depth, four-page biography of Longfellow, through which she introduces the various poems. The table of contents and the index of poem titles will be appreciated by readers who want to sample at random, or zero in quickly on a favorite.

Pretzel, by Margret Rey, illustrated by H.A. Rey. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1997. HBB, \$15.00. unsp.

If you didn't meet Pretzel when he was first born, in 1944, you will want to make his acquaintance now. Pretzel is a puppy, but he is not just any puppy. In the first place, he is a sort of younger cousin to Curious George, as both characters were created by the husband-and-wife team of Margret and H.A. Rey. On top of that, he belongs to the dachshund family, a breed of dogs known for its prodigious length; in fact, soon after his birth it becomes evident that he is the longest dachshund in the world!

Unfortunately, none of this is enough to impress Greta, a neighboring dachshund who coolly announces, "I don't care for long dogs." Nothing the smitten Pretzel does makes any difference to Greta, until she finds herself in danger, and realizes that only a dog of improbable length can save her.

Young readers will be drawn to Pretzel's indomitable spirit and to H.A. Rey's vigorous primary colors and strong, clean images.

Rip Van Winkle, by Washington Irving, illustrated by Arthur Rackham. (Books of Wonder) New York: North-South Books, 2000. HBB, \$19.95. 109 p.

This text combines the wit of Washington Irving, one of America's best-loved writers, with the fantastical images of Arthur Rackham, one of England's most gifted children's book illustrators.

The legend of Rip Van Winkle is often referred to, even by those who have never read it, for it has become a part of the fabric of our society. Imagine falling asleep, only to wake and find that twenty years have passed! (Some of us may feel that way after spending a week or two away from our jobs.)

Irving's gripping tale was first issued in 1819-1820. It clearly demonstrates his love of storytelling, as well as his incredible gift for language.

Rackham was asked to create 51 color plates for a 1905 edition of this story; thirty-four of these extraordinarily evocative illustrations are reproduced here.

Skipack school, written and illustrated by Marguerite de Angeli. Pennsylvania: Herald Press, 1999. PBB, \$ 88 p.

Marguerite de Angeli was the award-winning author of many books, including the well-known *The Door in the Wall*, published in 1950.

Her stories, which often revolve around different ethnic groups, allow her to explore the underlying, profound commonalities which exist between all people.

Skipack School is a gentle story, first published in 1936, about a Mennonite family, newly arrived from Germany and busy adjusting to life in mid-1700's Pennsylvania. The day-to-day activities and customs of the time are seen through the eyes of Eli, a good-hearted but mischievous boy who would rather be outside playing than indoors learning his letters. But Master Christopher is a kind and patient teacher, who quotes scripture more often than he uses the rod. Soon he wins Eli's confidence, and Eli finds he is capable of more than he had imagined.

Angeli's descriptions of Eli's visit to the paper mill and the printing office, as well as references to the Penn Treaty and brief interactions with Native Americans, furnish a rich backdrop for her narrative,

and her own softly tinted illustrations bring depth to her characters.

The Snow Queen, by Hans Christian Andersen; retold by Ken Setterington and illustrated by Nelly and Ernst Hofer. Toronto: Tundra Books, 2000. HBB, \$16.95. 48 p.

Ken Setterington, storyteller and public librarian, here retells Hans Christian Andersen's tale about the healing and redemptive power of love.

The evil Snow Queen spirits young Kay away to her icy homeland. Determined to rescue her dear friend, Gerda sets out alone, finding both help and hindrance along the way. When a well-intentioned reindeer asks a wise woman for some magic potion to aid Gerda, the woman replies, "She has a pure and loving heart ... There is nothing greater that I can give her."

The Hofer's cut-paper art, known as *scherrenschnitt*, is presented starkly, in black silhouette against the clean, white paper; these amazingly intricate decorations are the perfect accompaniment to Andersen's sometimes harsh, but ultimately affirming tale. According to the author's note on the closing page of this text, Andersen himself practiced this ancient form of folk art.

The Stranger at home: a childhood account. Grants Pass, Oregon: SAT Publications, 1999. HBB, \$ 76 p.

The Stranger at home: an exhaustive study guide, by Tami S. Blausler. Grants Pass, Oregon: SAT Publications, 2000. PBB, \$ 72 p.

The Stranger at Home is an anonymous, but presumably autobiographical account of young Elvira who goes to live with her grandparents from the age of six to the age of twelve. Her grandparents dote on her and spoil her to such an extent that, upon her return to her own family, she finds that the diligent and obedient behavior

expected of her does not come easily.

Despairing of her stubbornness, her Christian parents resolve not to provide her with correction or punishment of any kind. Initially pleased with this arrangement, Elvira soon she finds that she feels like a stranger in her own home.

In the end, there is repentance and a growing awareness of God's love for his wayward children.

The author of this text, which was last published in 1871, employs a very simple and straightforward narrative voice. Some of her punctuation is irregular by today's standards.

This slim volume is handsomely turned out in cloth binding with gold embossing.

Tami Blausler's accompanying study guide is a combination fill-in-the-blanks workbook and discussion guide. Intended for use by readers of all ages, it provides comprehension tests, questions for discussion, and scripture references for each chapter of Elvira's account. The lengthy commentaries included in the answer key are thoughtful and detailed; Blausler occasionally relies on "answers will vary" for the discussion questions, but generally offers some helpful suggestions or alternatives.

A useful bibliography is provided, but because Blausler does not make use of foot- or endnotes, it is difficult to know which points are her own and which are based on these other sources. There are some typographical errors, as well as minor grammatical lapses.

It should be noted that not all readers will agree with some of the opinions presented; for example, on p. 60 of the study guide, it is suggested that many of today's "liberals" subscribe to certain attitudes (i.e. welfare for the poor) because they are carnally, rather than spiritually minded.

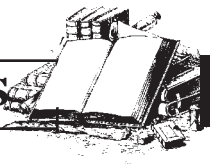
White Fang, by Jack London, illustrated by Philippe Munch. New York: Penguin Putnam, 1999. HBB, \$25.99. 235 p.

As a young pup, White Fang quickly learns the primary law of the wild: eat or be eaten. When he and his half-wolf, half-dog mother are taken by an Indian tribe, he learns his next lesson: fear of man. Hardship and severe conditions breed a merciless cunning, as well as a hampering dependence.

Sold to Beauty Smith, a cruel and twisted man, for the price of a few bottles of whisky, White Fang is forced to work for his survival as a professional fighting dog. Following an encounter that very nearly ends his life, he is rescued by Weedon Scott, a kind-hearted man whose boundless patience at last wins the wolf-dog's confidence, transforming him from a wild beast into a devoted and faithful companion.

London's gripping account, told from the perspective of the title character, serves as a fascinating window on the history of the north; it also allows the author to explore and comment on the interplay between heredity and environment.

This Whole Story edition reintroduces the complete, unabridged text as it was originally published in 1906. Sidebars, photos, and new color illustrations complement the text. Some of London's characters are rather rough, and so there is occasional use of mildly offensive language.



★

***Bless this day : toddler prayers*, text by Anne E. Kitch; illustrated by Joni Oeltjenbruns; cover and page design by Annika L. Chiodi. LCCN 00710307. Harrisburg, Pa.: Morehouse, 2000. PBB, 0819218275, \$6.95.**

E. Children--Prayer-books and devotions; Prayers.

Bless This Day is a delightful collection of short prayers and an accompanying Bible verse. The illustrations are bright, colorful, and eye-catching. Pictures are of familiar objects/persons that may assist in teaching new words to toddlers. The combined prayer with a Bible verse is particularly well done in that the reader may instill God's word into the heart of the toddler in a fun and comfortable way.

Tammy Williams. Social Worker/Freelance Writer, Port Orchard, Washington

***The boy who became an eagle*, by Kathryn Cave; illustrated by Nick Maland. LCCN 00035897. New York: Dorling Kindersley, 2000. HBB, 0789426668, \$15.95.**

E. Flight--Fiction; Carnivals--Fiction. unsp.

A boy discovers that he can fly and spends a summer perfecting his flying technique while also keeping his ability a secret from family and friends. One winter day the boy flies to the edge of frozen sea. At home, food is scarce and life not much fun for the boy. But this flight is different. This time Wozzini the showman sees the boy and quickly lifts the sleeping boy up, wraps him in blankets and places him near the fire to warm up. Once the boy is awake, Wozzini makes him a pair of eagle wings from wood and feathers, and the boy becomes a part of the traveling act. From town to town Wozzini takes his flying boy and in each town the people are amazed and cannot believe the boy can fly. Everyone assumes it is the eagle's wings he wears. In one city, robbers kidnap the boy and hide him in a building with bars on the windows. They want to know the secret of flight. Finally the boy devises a plan to trick the robbers and is able to escape and fly home without the heavy wings. At last the boy realizes how much he missed his home and family.

Kathryn Cave has created an imaginative story in *The Boy Who Became an Eagle*, but a story that lacks continuity. Children will be puzzled at a story line which does not flow smoothly. It is almost as if a page or two is missing, leaving out the connection between one scene and the next. The story is a good illustration of the saying that the grass is not always greener, but the textual chopiness makes it difficult to use. Being famous is not all that much fun, as the boy eventually learns.

Visually, the book is beautiful. Illustrator Nick Maland has created appealing watercolor pictures with interesting detail. The colors are distinct yet at the same time have a softness that one might associate with a fairytale or myth.

Barbara Wall, School Library System Director, Orange-Ulster BOCES, Monroe, New York

***Count on Pablo*, by Barbara deRubertis; illustrated by Rebecca Thornburgh. (Math matters.) LCCN 98051119. New York: Kane Press, 1999. PAP, 1575650908, \$4.95.**

E. Counting--Fiction; Vegetables--Fiction; Markets--Fiction; Grandmothers--Fiction; Hispanic Americans--Fiction. 32 p. Primary.

On market day, Pablo and his grandmother (Abuela) are going to sell their vegetables. Since this is the first time that Pablo is allowed to go to market, he is so excited he can hardly wait. But first, Abuela makes Pablo wash all the vegetables before they put their wares into the truck. Impatient Pablo washes the vegetables and then Abuela asks him to count the limes, onions, tomatoes, and peppers. As Pablo washes the produce he counts by ones, by twos, by fives, and by tens. At the market he helps Abuela sell her wares plus he gives the customers a recipe for salsa.

Count on Pablo is a Math Matters activity book designed to help readers have fun with counting. Barbara deRubertis includes activities at the end of the book that will help K - 2 students learn while having fun with Pablo. For each math concept the numbers are in bold type. Words like cilantro, salsa, and herbs will need to be explained and pronounced for readers. The story is interesting because Pablo is actually doing the counting plus having an adventure.

Connie Weaver, Church & Reference Librarian, Newville, Pennsylvania

***Do knights take naps?* written by Kathy Tucker; illustrated by Nick Sharratt. LCCN 99035748. Morton Grove, Ill.: Albert Whitman, 2000. HBB, 0807516953, \$15.95.**

E. Knights and knighthood--Fiction; Stories in rhyme. unsp. Preschool-Primary.

What does a knight do? Where does he live? Do knights eat candy? What does a knight wear? *Do Knights Take Naps?* by author Kathy Tucker takes a light hearted look at these knightly questions and more as she explores the world of knights. And what about bad princes?... and fiery dragons? She doesn't leave them out either! After all, what is a knight without a fiery dragon? The young knight in your audience with giggle over Nick Sharratt's cartoon-like figures

doing their knightly best to be brave. Do knights take naps? Of course they do, right after their moms tuck them in and leave the light on in the hall!

Judy Driscoll, Retired Teacher, Poulsbo, Washington

***Dr. White*, by Jane Goodall; illustrated by Julie Litty. LCCN 98045564. New York: North-South Books, 1999. HBB, 073581063X, \$15.95.**

E. Working dogs--Fiction; Dogs--Fiction; Hospitals--Fiction; Sick--Fiction. unsp.

Dr. White is an unusual physician. He is shaggy and small and often snuggles right next to his little patients, nudging them with his cold, black nose. He has his routine down pat and is well-respected by his co-workers. The nurses ask for him whenever they have a patient who is especially ill. In those cases, Dr. White jumps up on the critically ill child's bed and curls up close, gently licking the child's hand and thumping his tail for as long as he feels needed.

All is well until one day the health inspector notices the little white dog running loose in the hospital's halls and begins screaming. Dr. White is no longer allowed to see his patients. Day after day he sits outside the hospital kitchen's door, worrying about his patients inside. Many are getting worse.

Months later the health inspector returns to the hospital. He is not greeted kindly by the head nurse. She stops talking when she sees the tears running down his face. His little girl is terribly sick. The nurse promises she will do what she can for the his daughter. That night she opens the back door and invites Dr. White in. He races to the room of the sick child and curls up close beside her. In the morning when the health inspector enters his daughter's room, he sees the little, white dog lying on his daughter's bed and the smile on her face as she opens her eyes for the first time in days. He understands then the "medicine" that Dr. White dispenses.

Jane Goodall, the noted scientist, was inspired to write *Dr. White* by the true story of a little white dog who was adopted by a hospital in London many years ago. Credit was given to the dog for aiding in the recovery of many sick children. It is a moving story and Julie Litty's realistic watercolor illustrations, especially those of the sick and recovering children, add to the poignancy of the tale.

Lillian Heytvelt, Public Librarian, Pomeroy, Washington

***Fifteen flamingos*, by Elspeth Campbell; illustrated by Richard Bernal. LCCN 00008921. Minneapolis: Bethany Backyard, 2000. HBB, 0764222015, \$9.99.**

E. Birthdays--Fiction; Parties--Fiction; Flamingos--Fiction; Imagination--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. unip. Preschool-Primary.

A cute little girl is six years old today and she is about to have a party. She thanks God for her day but what she really wants for her birthday is fifteen flamingoes as party guests. Her imagination runs wild and she parties with her fabulous flamingoes until the doorbell rings announcing her fifteen real friends who have arrived for her party. Too bad, the flamingoes must go.

Elsbeth Campbell Murphy has told an enchanting short story about the power of a little girl's imagination. She has made nice use of alliteration with adjectives beginning with the letter "F." This causes the story to be very fun to read aloud. The illustrations by Richard Bernal are a riot of bright, brilliant colors that make the birthday seem fantastic and festive all at once. This is a very sweet and joyous book for young children.

Teresa O'Donley, Library Media Specialist, Baymonte Christian School, Scotts Valley, California

Forever friends. (Jay Jay the jet plane.) Nashville: Tommy Nelson, Thomas Nelson. Vid, \$12.97.

E. Children--Conduct of life; Children--Religious life; Christian life. 1 videocassette, Col., 30 min. (Elementary).

A set of three animated vignettes on videotape, Jay Jay the Jet Plane: Forever Friends, depicts a group of airplanes and their human radio traffic controller, Brenda Blue. The lead character is a bright blue airplane named Jay Jay. He and his friends learn biblical lessons throughout their adventures.

The first story, "Missing You," stars Jay Jay and his friend, Snuffy, a yellow airplane with constant nasal congestion. They are adjusting to their friend and mentor, Big Jake's, an older airplane's, absence. He has gone away for a week to see his brother. To ease their loneliness, the radio controller, Brenda Blue helps them look at Big Jake's picture, write him a letter and call him on the radio.

The Buddy System shows Jay Jay and his friend, Tracey, a purple airplane, the value of sticking together the way God sticks with us wherever we are. They fly to a distant city and lose each other, but God intervenes and they gratefully reunite.

"Treasure Hunt" examines the value of friendship as Tracey and Savannah, a sleek silver jet, spend special time together looking for treasure. However, as Old Oscar, an antique plane, reveals, the true treasure is their friendship.

This video is outstanding. The animation is splendidly vivid, much improved over previous Jay Jay videos, but the terrific lessons of faith and friendship remain the same. Impressive voiceovers give the cast human qualities such as vulnerability when they are lonely or lost, joy when they reunite or discover an exciting truth,

and humility when they are wrong. The gentle biblical instruction is effective in this format. The characters model good communication skills, talking about their feelings and problems. Appealing to a wide range of ages, toddler to upper elementary, this superlative video will delight the eyes and heart.

Anita Goldman Horning, Freelance Writer, Lawrenceville, Georgia

The fourth wise man, based on the story by Henry Van Dyke; retold by Susan Summers; illustrated by Jackie Morris. LCCN 97014771. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, Penguin Putnam, 1998. HBB, 0803723121, \$16.99.

E. Christmas--Fiction. unip. (Elementary).

Artaban, the fourth wise man, and his three wise friends read stars and recognize the new star signals the coming King's birth. When he sees the star, Artaban gathers gifts to take to the great teacher born of the Jews. In his travels, Artaban aids a sick man along the road and buys protection from soldiers for a woman and her babe. Artaban continues his search for the King of Kings, and helps needy on the way. Even as the search continues, time passes. Soon, it seems, thirty-three years have passed. He returns to Jerusalem for a last, he believes, vain attempt. He discovers three men are being crucified, including Jesus of Nazareth, who claims to be God's Son. Artaban knows this as truth and fumbles to get through the crowd, only to be stopped by a woman who is to be imprisoned for her family's debts. In answering her plea, he spends the last gift he intended for the King. In the storm of the crucifixion, Artaban is injured, and hears a voice say, "Peace be with you, Artaban. ... As often as you did these things for the least of my children, you did them for me."

Susan Summers retelling of *The Fourth Wise Man* is done excellently. Readers sense Artaban's conflict over stopping to help people rather than continuing his journey. The resolution when he realizes that he has pleased the King in his actions brings satisfaction and closure. Jackie Morris' watercolors complete the story's portrayal. The detail, lighting, and perspective serve to place the reader in each scene. The scene of the cross gives the impression that the reader is standing at the foot of the hill.

Carol M. Jones, Librarian, South Side Elementary School and Marquette Pre-K Center, Champaign, Illinois

Franklin goes to the hospital, by Sharon Jennings; illustrated by Brenda Clark. LCCN C99931786. Toronto, Ont.: Kids Can, 2000. HBB, 1550747320, \$10.95.

E. Hospitals--Fiction. unip. Preschool-Primary.

In the middle of a soccer game Franklin is hit in the chest by the ball. The next day he still has a sore spot on his tummy. Franklin's mother takes him to Doctor Bear who discovers a crack in his shell that must be pinned. Franklin has gone to the doctor for checkups, colds, and cuts, but

until now he has never gone to the hospital. He looks at the book Doctor Bear gave him about hospitals. Then Franklin picks out his blue blanket and stuffed dog, Sam, to take to the hospital. All of Franklin's friends and family tell him how brave he is. Even the nurses tell Franklin he is brave. But when Doctor Bear tries to take X-rays of Franklin, he begins to cry. He knows X-rays show what is inside of you and they will show he really is scared. Doctor Bear gently explains that, "Being brave means doing what you have to do, no matter how scared you feel."

Franklin Goes To The Hospital by Paulette Bourgeois and Brenda Clark is an excellent book for any child faced with a hospital stay. However, learning to do what you have to, no matter how scared you feel can apply to many other situations as well. All young readers will understand Franklin's fear of the unknown. Brenda Clark's delightful pictures convey Franklin's feelings. Enough details of the X-ray room and operating room are shown in the pictures to help the reader understand what to expect if they will be going to the hospital.

Barbara Bryden, Freelance Writer, Olympia, Washington

Go home! : the true story of James the cat, written and illustrated by Libby Phillips Meggs. LCCN 99041372. Morton Grove, Ill.: Albert Whitman, 2000. HBB, 0807529753, \$15.95.

E. Cats--Fiction; Lost and found possessions--Fiction. unip.

Whether the black cat found Emily and Charlotte or Emily and Charlotte found the black cat may never quite be known, but what is known is that a once stray, starving, and frightened cat with a too tight collar, wandered onto the right door step and wormed his way into the heart of the family. Where he came from, even the frightened black cat did not know, but where he belonged everyone knew.

After nursing the black cat back to health and trying to find its true owners with no luck, the family decides the cat must belong to them, but what is his name? They try everything, but nothing seems to fit the cat just right. It isn't until Halloween comes around that the black cat is near the door when two young trick or treaters are leaving and one calls to his younger brother, "Hurry up, James!" that the black cat reacts, and the family discovers that James is his true name.

Libby Phillips Meggs tells this true story of her family's cat, James. Her illustrations from a cat's eye view are a wonderful backdrop for her story of love and commitment.

Judy Driscoll, Retired Teacher, Poulosbo, Washington

Grandpa's soup, written by Eiko Kadono; illustrated by Staomi Ichikawa. LCCN 99030712. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1999. HBB, 0802851959, \$16.00.

E. Soups--Fiction; Loneliness--Fiction; Grief--Fiction; Sharing--Fiction. 32 p.

Too sad to do anything since Grandma died, Grandpa sits in his chair in the house by himself. Then one day he decides he wants to eat some of his dear wife's meatball soup again. Taking a tiny pot down from the shelf, he starts to make meatball soup. When it is done three mice come to the door. Grandpa shares his soup with them, but there isn't much left for him. The next day he uses a bigger pot and remembers more things Grandma put in the soup. The three mice come back and bring a cat. Each day he uses a bigger pot and remembers more things Grandma put in the soup. The mice and the cat bring a dog. Then ten children come to the door and Grandpa discovers the best cure for his loneliness is sharing his soup with friends.

Grandpa's Soup deals with the loneliness Grandpa experiences after the death of someone he loves. Any child who has lost a relative or pet or has had a friend move away will identify with Grandpa's sadness and appreciate the happy ending. Eiko Kadono shows readers a positive way to express their feelings by remembering the good experiences and reaching out to others who need them. Staomi Ichikawa's beautiful pictures include little details that illustrate how Grandpa's feelings change. At first the flowers on the table are dead, but by the end of the story he has beautiful flowers in the vase. Children will delight in the procession of animals and children that arrive at Grandpa's door.

Barbara Bryden, Freelance Writer, Olympia, Washington

Hedgie's surprise, written & illustrated by Jan Brett. LCCN 99020944. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, Penguin Putnam, 2000. HBB, 0399234772, \$16.99.

E. Chickens--Fiction; Hedgehogs--Fiction; Trolls--Fiction; Eggs--Fiction. unip.

"Henny! Have you got a yummy for my hungry, hungry tummy?" Henny is tired of hearing this greeting every morning and she is determined not to let the Tomten steal any more of her eggs. With help from Hedgie (the hedgehog from Brett's book, *The Hat*), she tricks the Tomten into trying different morsels of food. But after four days of tasting other fare, the Tomten calls, "Henny, tomorrow I want an egg for breakfast and nothing else. If I don't find one, I'll eat you up instead!" The next morning Hedgie is ready, and his surprise makes sure Tomten does not return again. All is well and Henny is finally able to settle down to raise a family.

Hedgie's plan takes five days to convince the Tomten not to return. The implication, therefore, is that the five saved eggs are hatched on the fifth day, much sooner than a usual hatching schedule. This, along with the connection that the Tomten must have been eating fertilized eggs, is a bit unsettling.

Elaborate watercolor paintings with detailed, patterned borders and easy flowing text, give *Hedgie's Surprise* the usual elements of a Jan Brett book. The author has a talent for painting

realistic animals filled with expression and attitude. This, and the foreshadowing of events outlined in the borders, provides a pleasurable reading experience for any reader. The illustrations dominate the storyline, which lacks the variety and strength of other favorites such as *The Hat*, *The Mitten*, or *Christmas Trolls*. The feel however is one hundred percent Jan Brett, and fans will want to have this book in their collections.

Karen Brehmer, Teacher, Sylvan Way Christian School, Bremerton, Washington

Henry's song, written by Kathryn Cave; illustrated by Sue Hendra. LCCN 99037942. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2000. ISBN 0802851983, HBB, \$16.00.

E. Singing--Fiction; Animals--Fiction; Individuality--Fiction. unip. Small children.

Henry lives in the forest with many other creatures. He loves to sing but the other creatures say he is only making noise. One day the Maker of All Things visits the creatures of the forest. He reminds them how he made each one of them special. Then he asks the creatures of the forest an important question: "What are your voices for?" The creatures of the forest do not know. So the Maker of All Things tells them he will come back tomorrow. The creatures of the forest eventually decide their voices are for singing. They practice a lovely song and when Henry begins to sing, the other creatures do not want him to have any part in their song. They say he just makes noise. The next morning the creatures of the forest sing their wonderful song for the Maker of All Things. The Maker of All Things is sad when he hears their song. He knows Henry is not singing with all the other creatures. The Maker of All Things reminds the creatures of the forest that all their voices are for singing. Then Henry joins all the creatures of the forest in a wonderful song. The Maker of All Things is pleased.

The warm message that the Maker of All Things made each of us special is very clear. The creative use of collage and color bring the story to life.

Susan K. Brown, Teacher, Noblesville, Indiana

How the cat swallowed thunder, by Lloyd Alexander; illustrated by Judith Byron Schachner. LCCN 00024530. New York: Dutton Children's Books, Penguin Putnam, 2000. HBB, 0525464492, \$16.99.

E. Cats--Fiction; Behavior--Fiction. unip.

Old Mother Holly's cat is always in trouble. Deciding that it is time for him to learn to be good and make himself useful, she leaves him home alone with a list of chores and strict orders to behave. Mother Holly goes on her errands, with Cat promising to do all that he's been told. Quickly becoming tired, he decides he'll work better after a nap. As he prepares to sleep, one thing leads to another and amazing things

happen. The battered watering can causes a rainstorm, goose feathers whirl into a snowstorm, and the corn pops thunderously. As cat works to right each wrong, the surprising result of his troublesome actions is a clean house. Mother Holly comes home and is delighted until she realizes Cat has swallowed a kernel of her magic corn. The truth of Cat's day is revealed, and Mother Holly scolds him. A rumbling noise comes from inside the cat. He fears the worst, afraid Mother Holly might really be angry. The sound is pleasing to her, however, and she promises Cat many good things, as long as he continues to make the soothing noise.

This humorous tale of how the cat got its purr will have readers anticipating Cat's next disaster and feeling the anxiety of Mother Holly's imminent return. Lloyd Alexander uses a variety of action words and descriptive language to give this story energy. This, along with some challenging vocabulary words, make this picture book an appropriate choice for the older independent reader, with many possibilities for teachers to extend into the language arts curriculum. Also a fun read aloud for younger children, adults may have to explain some of the magic of Mother Holly, a Mother Nature figure similar to Mother Holle, from Grimm's fairy tales. Judith Schachner's whimsical pencil and water color paintings fill the pages with activity, a perfect match to Alexander's rich text. And, for an added bonus, children will have fun finding the pair of mice drawn in each picture.

Karen Brehmer, Teacher, Sylvan Way Christian School, Bremerton, Washington

Hurricane! by Patricia Lakin; illustrated by Vanessa Lubach. LCCN 99054839. Brookfield, Ct.: Millbrook Press, 2000. HBB, 0761316167, \$21.90.

E. Hurricanes--Fiction; Fathers and sons--Fiction. unip. Preschool-.

Hurricane Bob is fast approaching and a young girl and her daddy rush around to prepare their waterfront home for the strong rain and winds that will assault it. Everywhere they go they see people hammering, tying things down, buying extra supplies, flashlights, and batteries. The town is going to be as prepared as possible! When the storm hits everyone rushes indoors to safety. Many go to shelters, but the young girl and her father stay in their home. He encourages his daughter, "This house has stood through many a hurricane."

When at last the storm is over the beach is scattered with debris, broken boats and pieces of roofing. Even Mr. Finney's place right on the sand is gone, but he is safe in the town shelter. Now the town sets about restoring, repairing, and even planting new trees and plants so there will be new landmarks and hope even as the old memories remain intact.

Hurricane! by Patricia Lakin brings the tenseness of preparation for such a huge storm. The full-page color illustrations by Vanessa Lubach portray the emotions and fierceness of

the storm beautifully. The ending is a bit anti-climactic, but the two-page "Hurricane facts" at the end of the book make this a usable tool for teaching terminology and answering questions. This is a book that you might want to add to your collection if you enjoy weather-related stories.

Mary McKinney, Writer, Editor, Former Teacher, Port Orchard, Washington

If Nathan were here, by Mary Bahr; illustrated by Karen A. Jerome. LCCN 99039909. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2000. HBB, 0802851878, \$16.00.

E. Grief--Fiction; Death--Fiction. unip.

"If Nathan were here, we would meet in our tree fort to choose which team hats to wear from our Baseball Hat Wall of Fame. But Nathan isn't here." And so a young boy tries to remember what his lost friend was like, what he would share with his friend if he were here, and how he is going to fill the emptiness he feels over the death of his friend, Nathan. Mary Bahr follows the grieving of this young boy with his friends and classmates at school, his neighborhood, family, and even Nathan's sister herself. Not meant to try to answer questions about death, or to sweep the emotions surrounding death away, author Mary Bahr simply and gently paints various aspects of grief with picture words. Accompanied by the soft illustrations of Karen A. Jerome, *If Nathan Were Here* is a perfect backdrop to allow the young grieving child an avenue to express his own thoughts about his loss.

Judy Driscoll, Retired Teacher, Poulsbo, Washington

If you take a mouse to the movies, by Laura Numeroff; illustrated by Felicia Bond. LCCN 99027258. New York: Laura Geringer Book, HarperCollins, 2000. HBB, 0060278676, \$15.95.

E. Mice--Fiction; Christmas--Fiction. unip.

Laura Numeroff and her exuberant little mouse are back again in *If You Take a Mouse to the Movies*. If you should take the little critter to a movie, naturally he'll want some popcorn. The cause-effect roller coaster story takes off from there to offer a view of Christmas from a mouse's perspective. As in their previous title, *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*, Numeroff and her illustrator, Felicia Bond, have captured the wide-eyed wonder of the world through the eyes of ever-enthusiastic Mouse and his accommodating human friend. Felicia Bond's lovable depictions continue to engage our sympathies even as Mouse's pleas for new experiences become more and more extravagant. If You Take a Mouse to the Movies defines joie de vivre for the child who has yet to put a name to the experience and is a sweet reminder to those adults who have forgotten.

Pamela A. Todd, English Teacher/Librarian, Chaldean Christian School, Cumming, Georgia

The magic nesting doll, by Jacqueline K. Ogburn; illustrated by Laurel Long. LCCN 98034397. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, Penguin Putnam, 2000. HBB, 0803724144, \$16.99.

E. Fairy tales. unip.

Seldom do both a story and its illustrations work together to produce the feast that is presented in *The Magic Nesting Doll*. Jacqueline K. Ogburn has drawn on the tradition of the fairy tale to tell the story of young Katya, who owns a matryoshka, a Russian nesting doll. But Katya's nesting doll is unique in that it was given to her by her grandmother with the admonition that it contained three wishes, and that Katya should not open it until her need was great, and then help would come when it was opened and she remembered her grandmother.

Katya goes out into the world alone with her matryoshka in her pocket. One day she hears about a young Tsarevitch who has turned to ice, and thereby his kingdom is doomed to winter without thaw, night without moon, and dark without dawn. Katya determines to find the young prince and use her matryoshka to try to break this evil spell. She travels to his distant palace and peers at his icy body through a window where he is guarded by his hot and fearsome uncle the Grand Vizier.

As she opens each doll, one at a time, its character grants her the wish which she requests, and with each doll the prince becomes a little less icy, and the Grand Vizier, becomes a little weaker. The bear, the wolf, and the firebird each do their part in rescuing the kingdom from its wintery spell. But it is not until loves' first kiss that the prince is awakened to greet his bride, and the Grand Vizier, now ice himself, is destroyed.

Those who delight in a good fairy tale will be entranced with Jacqueline K. Ogburn's ability to tell a good tale, but the greatest feast of *The Magic Nesting Doll* is for the eyes. Illustrator Laurel Long's lavish and detailed paintings could each stand as a work of art alone. Done in Russian folk art style with decorative borders, the paintings bid you linger a little longer over each page and explore all that she has accomplished with color, symbol, and design.

Judy Driscoll, Retired Teacher, Poulsbo, Washington

Mei-Mei loves the morning, written by Margaret Holloway Tsubakiyama; paintings by Cornelius Van Wright & Ying-Hwa Hu. LCCN 97026675. Morton Grove, Ill.: Albert Whitman, 1999. HBB, 0807550396, \$15.95.

E. Grandfathers--Fiction; China--Fiction. unip.

Mei-Mei loves mornings. Grandfather prepares breakfast for the two of them while Mei-Mei takes the night cover off of Bai-Ling's cage and feeds the little bird. Then Mei-Mei and Grandfather attach Bai-Ling's cage to the handlebars of Grandfather's bicycle for the trip to the park. On the way, they stop to visit with the cobbler who lets Mei-Mei try on a pair of

beautiful red shoes. When they get to the park Grandfather hangs Bai-Ling's cage in a tree with all of their friends' birds. Grandfather, Mei-Mei, and all of their friends do tai-chi. They pretend to be tigers and cranes. After exercising, everyone drinks tea and visits. Then Mei-Mei and Grandfather bicycle home for lunch.

Margaret Holloway Tsubakiyama tells a gentle loving story of a little girl and her grandfather in modern China. *Mei-Mei Loves the Morning* provides a glimpse of family life in a Chinese city. Three generations live in the small apartment and Grandfather's transportation is a bicycle stored in the lobby of the building. Mei-Mei and Grandfather bicycle through the busy streets of the city to meet with their friends. Cornelius Van Wright and Ying-Hwa Hu's delightful scenes of their ride down streets crowded with bicycles carrying everything from mattresses to pigs will delight young readers. Mei-Mei and Grandfather enjoy a special relationship. The artists successfully capture the love the little girl and her grandfather have for each other in their expressions.

Anyone who has been to China will recognize the street scenes and remember the many cages and birds for sale in the markets. Well written and beautifully illustrated, *Mei-Mei Loves the Morning* will delight readers who have been to China as well as those who have not.

Barbara Bryden, Freelance Writer, Olympia, Washington

The missing mitten mystery, story and pictures by Steven Kellogg. LCCN 99054777. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, Penguin Putnam, 2000. HBB, 0803725663, \$15.99.

E. Lost and found possessions--Fiction; Mittens--Fiction. unip.

Little Annie is in big trouble! She's just lost her mitten. That makes five in one winter. Can Annie and her faithful dog Oscar possibly find it? They begin by retracing Annie's snowy steps. They find other articles of clothing belonging to her friends at a sled run and a snow fort but not the mitten. Annie's imagination begins to run wild when she mistakes a cardinal for a flying red mitten. Maybe the mitten is a bird's nest, a baby eagle's hat, a mouse's sleeping bag, or even a mouse's Halloween disguise.

Her improbable scenarios end when they encounter Miss Seltzer, who has not seen the mitten but surmises that it could be in the garden. Annie doesn't find her mitten there either but once again with her great imagination fantasizes about what could happen if a mitten was planted and a mitten tree grew. Then she would have enough mittens to give to everybody for presents on special occasions. Darkness and rain overtake her and she retreats to the house to have hot chocolate with Miss Seltzer, who notices that Annie's snowman outside the window has a heart. Mitten found!

Once again Steven Kellogg has created a fanciful and engaging story for younger

children. They will love following Annie and Oscar on their search. As usual, his illustrations are funny, clever, and skillfully colored and drawn. His cover illustration even hints at the answer to the mystery. He has very much captured the "stream-of-consciousness" manner in which a child thinks out a problem. Most children will want to read this book over and over again.

Teresa O'Donley, Library Media Specialist, Baymonte Christian School, Scotts Valley, California

Monk camps out, by Emily Arnold McCully. LCCN 99023237. New York: Arthur A. Levine Books, Scholastic, 2000. HBB, 0439099765, \$15.95.

E. Mice--Fiction; Camping--Fiction; Parent and child--Fiction. unip.

In *Monk Camps Out*, Emily Arnold McCully once again uses simple text and illustration to convey the importance of being small. She has a way of bringing out how great the small things in life really are. In this book, Monk, the young mouse who strives to show how big he is getting to be, requests to sleep out in the backyard. The author brings a freshness to this old theme of independence and reluctance to let it happen. Young readers will easily empathize with Monk's trepidation at being seemingly so far away while just in his backyard. And parents will delight in McCully's poignant humor of how Monk's parents handle their young son's step towards growing up. The combination of text and character lines adds to the warmth of the bright illustrations. As with the other Monk books, readers will warm to the little mouse who proves himself big in his efforts.

Pam Webb, School Librarian, Sandpoint, Idaho

The not-so-wise man, by Alan MacDonald; illustrations by Andrew Rowland. LCCN 99031745. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1999. HBB, 0802851967, \$15.00.

E. Jesus Christ--Nativity--Fiction; Magi--Fiction. unip.

Renowned for his wisdom, Ashtar speaks to crowds hungry for his knowledge. He tells a of the promise of a king sent from heaven. When he discovers the new star that signifies the king's coming, he sets off to find him. Throughout his journey, he meets those in need of his wisdom and shares what will meet their needs. Though each invites his company, he travels on alone in his endeavor to see the new king. When he stops for the night in a small crowded town, he notices that the star is just above his window. Although he notes the presence of the star, he does not stop to inquire in the stable, for he is far too wise to seek a king in a stable. Ashtar returns home with his "wisdom," but without witnessing the birth of the king he seeks.

Alan MacDonald has created an enchantingly-rendered story. The lesson that faith does not depend upon wisdom rings clear in this tale of the wise man who narrowly misses the king.

The illustrations by Andrew Rowland impeccably support the plot, while intimating all along that Ashtar may not be quite as wise as he seems. The reader will notice in Rowland's scene of the Nativity the travelers with whom Ashtar crosses paths on his journey. With subsequent readings, readers will find more and more pointers to the coming Christ child.

Carol M. Jones, Librarian, South Side Elementary School and Marquette Pre-K Center, Champaign, Illinois

Philipok, by Leo Tolstoy; retold by Ann Keay Beneduce and illustrated by Gennadii Spirin. LCCN 99055298. New York: Philomel, Penguin Putnam, 2000. HBB, 0399234829, \$16.99.

E. Schools--Fiction; Russia--Fiction. unip.

Philipok is a classic Russian tale originally told by Leo Tolstoy. Ann Keay Beneduce has now retold the story in a simple easy-to-read style which keeps very close to the original.

Philipok is a young boy who wants nothing more than to go to school with his brother Peter. Mother says he is too young and small; he will have to stay home with Grandmother. Philipok stays, but when Grandmother falls asleep he becomes lonely and decides to go to school by himself. Along the way he encounters a mean dog, the cold winter winds, and many strangers. By the time he reaches the schoolhouse he is afraid to go in. What if the teacher is angry and sends him home? Philipok finally goes inside. He proves he is smart enough to come to school because he can spell his name and knows his alphabet. The teacher agrees and from then on Philipok goes with Peter to school.

This charming story will become a classic to a new generation of children. A refreshing story of a child who wants so much to learn that he finds his own way to school. Gennady Spirin, a graduate of the Stroganov Institute of Art in Moscow, brings an authentic feel to the story. His illustrations are finely-detailed and expressive of the Russian culture. A winning combination.

Marcia Snyder, Librarian, Missoula, Montana

Poppleton in fall, by Cynthia Rylant; illustrated by Mark Teague. LCCN 98031791. New York: Scholastic, 1999. HBB, 0590847899, \$14.95.

E. Pigs--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction; Animals--Fiction. 48 p.

Poppleton in Fall, by Cynthia Rylant, is more of the same wry humor and illustrations found in the previous Poppleton books. In this particular story Poppleton invites several passing geese on their way south to stop and have cookies. Feeding geese whose names continually rhyme reduces Poppleton to speaking gibberish, so that Cherry Sue, his level-headed friend and neighbor must tend to his weariness.

In the second story when Poppleton goes to get a new coat, Zacko the tailor points out that Poppleton is too big. Cherry Sue points out that

being a big pig is just fine, and big is a matter of perspective.

The last story is perhaps the most fun. When Poppleton takes Cherry Sue to a Lions Club pancake breakfast he manages to convince his reluctant friend, through some comical wordplay, that sometimes it's not only better, but necessary, to eat blueberry pancakes instead of plain ones, especially when grumpy lions are the cooks.

The Poppleton books carry a sophisticated wit, which might be lost on some younger readers. Rylant, most definitely shines in her other early reader series, Henry and Mudge. There is a simple appeal to this combo of a boy with a big heart and his dog who is just plain big, that young readers can relate to.

Pam Webb, School Librarian, Sandpoint, Idaho

The royal bee, by Frances Park and Ginger Park; illustrations by Christopher Zhong-Yuan Zhang. LCCN 98088234. Honesdale, Pa.: Boyds Mills, 2000. HBB, 1563976145, \$15.95.

E. Education--Fiction; Schools--Fiction; Social classes--Fiction; Contests--Fiction; Korea--Social life and customs--Fiction. unip. Preschool-Primary.

"In the days when kings ruled Korea, only the privileged 'yangban' children went to school. They wore fine clothing and carried handsome books. They competed in The Royal Bee at the Governor's palace. They grew up to be scholars and noblemen. Song-ho was not among the privileged. He was a 'sangmin' boy dressed in rags. But the distant sound of a school bell made him dream of the day when he could read books and write poetry."

Succinct yet descriptive, this story is based on the authors' own grandfather as an illiterate boy in late nineteenth-century Korea, too poor to attend school but who eavesdropped at the door of the rich children's school until he was allowed to attend. This story follows the same plot with wonderful scenes. Sung-ho wants to make life better for his mother who works hard in the farmers' fields. Sung-ho also wants to learn how to read and write. One day, after finishing his chores, he follows the sound of the school bell in the valley where he listens to the lessons outside the rice-paper door. The school master sees the boy's shadow outside the door and confronts him, yet does not send him away. Sung-ho continues listening in on lessons outside the door after day. Weeks pass into winter. Taking pity on the huddled, shivering boy, the master invites him inside where he is allowed to stay if he can pass a verbal test on the lessons. He passes every question and is joyous to be able to sit with the other students. Sung-ho is later selected by his classmates to represent their school at the annual Royal Bee, where students from all over Korea are challenged by questions. At the end, only he and one other student remain. To win, Sung-ho composes a poem about what winning the competition would mean to him.

Frances and Ginger Park make good use of repetition in their prose, making this a wonderful book to read aloud to children. The messages of family (Sung-ho's love for his mother), learning, pursuing your dreams, and doing your best ring true in this book. Illustrations by Zhang are acrylic paintings done in muted colors.

Kimm Swenson Gollnick, *Writer, Speaker & Teacher (Marion Independent Schools), Marion, Iowa*

***Saint Francis and the Christmas donkey*, by Robert Byrd. LCCN 00025415. New York: Dutton Children's Books, Penguin Putnam, 2000. HBB, 0525464808, \$15.99.**

E. Francis, of Assisi, Saint, 1182-1226--Fiction; Jesus Christ--Nativity--Fiction; Donkeys--Fiction; Christmas--Fiction. unsp. Preschool-Primary.

Saint Francis and the Christmas Donkey is a charming tale in which Saint Francis, the Patron Saint of animals, meets a donkey in the forest. The little donkey is lamenting loudly about the hard work a donkey must do, and how the other animals laugh at his bray. Saint Francis tells the donkey a story in answer to his lament.

Francis tells the story of creation. In the beginning, God blessed the donkey with delicate ears, a tiny, tail and a beautiful voice. The donkey became so proud that he began to make fun of other animals. Finally the other animals became so angry that they pulled the donkey's ears and tail. All the donkey could do is to cry with a loud raucous voice. God was also angry at the donkey and decreed that his laugh would become a ridiculous Hee-Haw. He would also have long, floppy ears and a scrawny, scraggly tail. He would have to work hard and carry heavy loads. Throughout history the donkey has worked very hard, but he has also helped to build the civilized world. As a crowning achievement, the donkey carried Mary to Bethlehem. His warm breath comforted the baby in the manger. Even the magnificent gifts of the Wise Men could not equal the donkey's wonderful gift of love. Thus Francis shows the donkey that everyone has gifts to offer, each of us is uniquely important in God's eyes.

In a note to the reader, the author gives a short summary of Saint Francis' life, especially highlighting his love and care for the animals. This note tells how the donkey appears in many of the major episodes in Jesus' life. A donkey carried Mary to Bethlehem. The Holy Family also had a donkey on their flight the Egypt. Finally, Jesus rode a young donkey into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

This book illustrates Francis' love for all God's creatures. It is also a charming Christmas story, demonstrating the fact that love is the greatest gift anyone can give. Robert Byrd's lavishly detailed illustrations greatly enhance this delightful story, which will appeal to people of all ages.

Virginia Brown, *Library Assistant/Freelance Writer/Former Teacher, Sheridan Wyoming*

***The Savior that God sent*, by Kelly A. Rainbolt; illustrated by Roberta Collier-Morales. LCCN 2001267492. St. Louis, Mo.: Concordia, 2000. HBB, 0570070953, \$8.99.**

E. Jesus Christ--Nativity; Christmas; Stories in rhyme. unsp.

The Savior That God Sent by Kelly A. Rainbolt goes beyond the holiday gift book category. In its cause and effect story style, young readers will be able to better comprehend the interconnection of the traditional manger story. The sing-song text and the joyous illustrations of Roberta Collier-Morales will guarantee multiple readings. Each passage builds up to the importance of baby Jesus, the Savior that God sent.

The book allows for further discussion of this all-important cornerstone of Christian faith: that Jesus came to save us because God sent Him. Adults who desire to introduce the very young to the miracle of Jesus' coming will appreciate the simplistic appeal of the rhyming repetition. A book to consider for gift giving with its thoughtful dedication page.

Pam Webb, *School Librarian, Sandpoint, Idaho*

***Shades of black : a celebration of our children*, by Sandra L. Pinkney; photographs by Myles C. Pinkney. LCCN 99086593. New York: Scholastic, 2000. HBB, 0439148928, \$14.95.**

E. Afro-Americans--Fiction. unsp.

"I am Black. I am Unique. I am the milky smooth brown in a chocolate bar and the golden brown in sugar." The text continues in simple language as it describes the various skin tones, hair textures, and eye color of black children. A celebration of our children.

Sandra L. Pinkney has found a unique way to use familiar items to describe children in *Shades of Black*. From pretzels to popcorn, and cotton to rope, all describe the uniqueness of black children. Myles C. Pinkney brings the book alive with his brilliant color photographs. The faces of these children are priceless. From the inquisitive eyes to the happy smiles, they are enchanting. This book is a celebration of the differences in black children as well as a way to explore and embrace a different culture.

Marcia Snyder, *Librarian, Missoula, Montana*

***The shaking bag*, written by Gwendolyn Battle-Lavert; illustrated by Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson. LCCN 99016974. Morton Grove, Ill.: Albert Whitman, 2000. HBB, 0807573280, \$15.95.**

E. Generosity--Fiction; Ravens--Fiction. unsp. Preschool-Primary.

Winner of the 2000 Parent's Choice Silver Award, *The Shaking Bag* by Gwendolyn Battle-Lavert spins a magical tale of southern hospitality and generosity, similar to the Bible story where Elijah is miraculously fed by the ravens at the Lord's command in the Kerith Ravine. Colorful illustrations by Aminah

Brenda Lynn Robinson bring Miss Annie Mae to life. Displaying her African American ancestry, Annie Mae appears with large brown braids that cascade down her back. Her strong, earthy hands are filled with food for five Ravens and other wild birds. Annie Mae and her dog live in a run down cabin and share what little they have. One night a mysterious stranger named Raven Reed knocks on her door. She invites him in and shares a meager crust of bread, putting the last crust aside for the birds and her dog. When he sees this, he takes the bag from her, reaches in and pulls out what she needs most: chairs, firewood, food to eat and even a table at which to sit. While they share a meal and talk all night she notices his eyes, "young of age, but ancient of spirit." When he departs, he hands her the bag and explains because of her generosity the sack will never again be empty. His departure is as miraculous as his stay had been. When she sees the Ravens again there are five and the eyes seem familiar. Both narrative and illustrations, each being well done, complement one another. This extraordinary story will be read more than once and remain in everyone's memory for generations to come.

Gail Welborn, *Reporter/Freelance Writer, Everett, Washington*

***Sockeye's journey home : the story of a Pacific salmon*, by Barbara Gaines Winkelman; illustrated by Joanie Popeo. (Smithsonian oceanic collection.) LCCN 99044598. Norwalk, Ct.: Soundprints, 2000. HBB, 1568998295, \$15.95.**

E. Sockeye salmon--Fiction; Salmon--Fiction; Animals--Migration--Fiction. 31 p. Preschool-Primary.

***Survival in the sea : the story of a hammerhead shark*, written by Linda Lingemann; illustrated by Steven Marchesi. (Smithsonian oceanic collection.) LCCN 99025918. Norwalk, Ct.: Soundprints, 1999. HBB, 1568997698, \$15.95.**

E. Hammerhead sharks--Fiction; Sharks--Fiction. 32 p. Preschool-Primary.

The blend of facts and an absorbing story will help instill interest and fascination in young readers as they learn about the world around them in the Oceanic Collection put out by the Smithsonian Institute.

Sockeye's Journey Home by Barbara Gaines Winkelman, illustrated by Joanie Popeo, is part of the Smithsonian Oceanic Collection. Readers learn through the informative, yet engaging text the life cycle of the salmon. Without having to resort to personification, the author still adds a dimension of singularity as Sockeye makes his way from the Pacific Ocean to Cedar River. The colorful, real-life illustrations alone tell of the tremendous struggles this determined fish must face before finding a mate and securing the next generation of salmon.

What young reader can resist a story about sharks, especially those that combine a stirring story with fascinating illustrations? Young

shark lovers will definitely appreciate *Survival in the Sea*, by Linda Lingemann, illustrated by Stephen Marchesi. Full of interesting details, made more vivid through the noteworthy illustrations, readers will follow a Hammerhead shark as she goes about her routine of giving birth, feeding, escaping prey, and following her instincts.

Both these books summon an appreciation for the world God created, evoking a respect for the natural sequence of life. If it is the stated intention to foster an appreciation and understanding of wildlife and habitats in young readers then this has been accomplished in these handsome selections.

Pam Webb, School Librarian, Sandpoint, Idaho

***Strega Nona takes a vacation*, by Tomie De Paola. LCCN 99041362. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, Penguin Putnam, 2000. HBB, 0399235620, \$16.99.**

E. Vacations--Fiction; Bubbles--Fiction. unip.

Strega Nona, Grandma Witch, is not herself lately. She is hearing the voice of her deceased Grandma Concetta, beckoning, "Vieni, Nonalina, Come." It distracts her so that she almost gives out the wrong remedies to the townsfolk. She finally follows the voice and goes on a vacation to the seashore. Bambolona and Big Anthony are left behind to do her work. In the past Big Anthony has caused many mishaps and Strega Nona warns them not to touch the magic pasta pot. That's not problem. When gifts arrive from Strega Nona, however, there is trouble, and this time it is Bambolona who is the cause. Strega Nona returns and is able to set things straight, and a new lesson is learned.

With the same playfulness and warmth as the previous Strega Nona stories, Tomie dePaola uses subtle watercolor paintings and clear text to tell this humorous tale. Large pictures fill the pages, often revealing the plot without words, making this book a perfect selection to read with a friend or share with a group of young children. Adding to the charm of the story, dePaola slips in a handful of Italian words, which teachers could use for a language mini-lesson. *Strega Nona Takes a Vacation* is sure to evoke smiles, giggles and gasps as these familiar and lovable characters once again reach into the reader's heart.

Karen Brehmer, Teacher, Sylvan Way Christian School, Bremerton, Washington

***The thornbush*, by Michael Laughlin; illustrated by Richard Stergulz. LCCN 99037002. Nashville: Tommy Nelson, Thomas Nelson, 2000. HBB, 0849959683, \$12.99.**

E. Jesus Christ--Crucifixion--Fiction; Jesus Christ--Resurrection--Fiction. unip.

The Thornbush by Michael Laughlin retells the crucifixion by expanding upon the legend of how the drops of Christ's blood transformed the thornbush flower from mediocrity to beauty.

Appropriate for Easter, this book nevertheless could remain available throughout the year since it portrays so well both the sorrow and joy of Christ's death. Young children will understand how insignificant the thornbush felt, yet will delight in how even at Jesus' most demanding time He noticed the little plant.

The illustrations by Richard Stergulz add warmth and light to what could be considered a dark time. The personification of the thornbush seems somewhat overdone, yet the message comes across that Christ cares for all of his creations. The story also simplifies this complicated aspect of Christ's life, his death and resurrection, in such a way to invite discussion. Sunday school teachers, parents, and other adults will appreciate this gentle tale as young readers absorb the message of how Jesus died, yet is alive.

Pam Webb, School Librarian, Sandpoint, Idaho

***Timothy goes to school*, by Rosemary Wells. LCCN 00712050. New York: Viking, Penguin Putnam, 2000. HBB, 0670891827, \$15.99.**

E. Schools--Fiction; Raccoons--Fiction; Animals--Fiction. 32 p.

It is his first week of school and Timothy, a racoon, is excited. Not only does he get to start school, but his mother has made him a brand new sunsuit. He is not at school long before he meets Claude. Claude quickly informs Timothy that no one wears a sunsuit on the first day of school. The next day, when Timothy wears a new jacket, Claude tells him that you're not supposed to wear party clothes on the second day of school. Even when Timothy wears an "in-between" shirt like Claude and a new football shirt the next day, Claude is still better at everything and has all the friends. Timothy detests going to school until he meets Violet, someone who accepts him just as he is. By the end of his first week of school, Timothy no longer worries about Claude for he has found a friend.

Timothy Goes to School, written and illustrated by Rosemary Wells, is a story about being both rejected and accepted, as well as a story about making friends. When Timothy is rejected by Claude, he responds by feeling jealous and angry. However, when he meets Violet, someone who likes and accepts him just as he is, he is able to laugh at his anger and jealousy and focus on friendship instead. Wells cleverly imbeds this theme in a well-told story full of suspense and subtle humor. Her illustrations, a combination of watercolor, pen and ink, gouache, pastel, and rubber stamps, are also delightful. Their bright colors attract and the humor and emotion they depict involve the reader in Timothy's plight. *Timothy Goes to School* is a wonderful tale of friendship and acceptance and a story that entertains as well.

Kerri Cunningham, Librarian, Camano Island, Washington

Together teamwork. (Jay Jay the jet plane.) Nashville: Tommy Nelson, Thomas Nelson. Vid, \$12.97.

E. Children--Conduct of life; Children--Religious life; Christian life. 1 videocassette, Col., 30 min.

This video presentation brings three short stories to the pre-schooler, all centered around Jay Jay and his airplane friends. If your child is familiar with Thomas the Train or Theodore the Tugboat, he/she will find Jay Jay a similar friend. The first episode is called "Big Jake's Team" and speaks to the idea of helping a friend in need. "Revin Evan's Day" is about appreciating someone's hard work, and the third story, "Hero Herky," has Herky the helicopter rescuing a stranded skier. There are songs included in each episode and "The Bible says" applies a biblical truth to each lesson.

Although the graphics are good, ie. colorful, cute, and clever the way the airplanes talk, the storylines are rather simplistic. There seems to be an over-abundance of talking about the problem rather than "showing" which may result in children losing interest during the storyline.

Mary McKinney, Writer, Editor, Former Teacher, Port Orchard, Washington

***Tom goes to kindergarten*, by Margaret Wild; illustrated by David Legge. LCCN 99050420. Morton Grove, Ill.: Albert Whitman, 2000. HBB, 0807580120, \$15.95.**

E. Pandas--Fiction; Kindergarten--Fiction; First day of school--Fiction; Schools--Fiction. unip. Preschool-Primary.

Tom the Panda walks by the kindergarten every day with his mother and Baby. He gazes in the windows, anxious to be old enough to join in the fun. At home he tries to play with Mother and Father but they are busy doing the daily chores, so he plays with Baby.

Soon Tom is old enough to attend Kindergarten. The teacher Mrs. Polar Bear is very welcoming but Tom is afraid and clings to his parents, so Mrs. Polar Bear invites them to stay for the day. They are reluctant but have so much fun that the next morning, even though Tom doesn't cling, they would like to stay. But Kindergarten is for Tom, not for them, and they must go, however they have learned how to take time for play.

Tom Goes to Kindergarten, written by Margaret Wild and illustrated by David Legge, is an extremely sweetnatured book that speaks exactly to small children. Tom's conflict over being ready to go to school, but nervous about staying rings very true, and most kindergarteners will like the part where his parents want to participate but only Tom is allowed to stay. The illustrations are beautifully colored and the characters are charmingly engaging. Wonderful book for any child preparing to go to school for the first time.

Teresa O'Donley, Library Media Specialist, Baymonte Christian School, Scotts Valley, California

Turnagain, Ptarmigan, where did you go?
by James Guenther; illustrated by
Shannon Cartwright. LCCN 00036570.
Seattle, Wash.: Sasquatch Books, 2000.
HBB, 1570612374, \$15.95.

E. Ptarmigans--Fiction; Stories in rhyme. unip.

Those who delight in exploring the world of animal camouflage will rejoice in James Guenther's *Turnagain Ptarmigan! Where did you go?* A young Alaskan girl romps through the changing seasons and landscapes of our fiftieth state in pursuit of finding the Alaskan state bird, the ptarmigan, in its changing feathers. The large print verse leads the reader with an enticing lilt to turn to the next page in search of the ever elusive ptarmigan. Those familiar with Alaskan place names will see the extra bit of humor in the double entendre of the title alone. Illustrator and Alaskan, Shannon Cartwright has outdone herself with her detailed and lavishly colored bird designs and faithfulness to her subject. Children will delight in the world of the ptarmigan's famous ability to blend in with its changing environment as well as the discovery of how they too can blend into their environment. A page at the back of the book gives a short science and history lesson about ptarmigans, their habitat, habits, food, and how it came to be the Alaskan state bird. *Turnagain Ptarmigan!* is a must have for those interested in the far north of either Alaska or Canada.

Judy Driscoll, Retired Teacher, Poulsbo, Washington

The way mothers are, by Miriam Schlein;
pictures by Joe Lasker. LCCN 92021516.
Morton Grove, Ill.: Albert Whitman,
2000. PAP, 0807586900, \$6.95.

E. Mothers--Fiction; Cats--Fiction. unip.

"Mother do you love me?" asks the young kitten. His mother's inevitable answer is yes, even when he asks "But how can you love me when I scream and SCREAM the way you don't like?" And mother's wise answer, "I don't love you all the other time just because you are not screaming,.... so why should I stop loving you sometimes just because you are screaming?" As the question continues throughout the day in all the kitten's activities, his mother's answer remains steadfast. Written in the tone of *Mama, Do You Love Me?* by Barbara Joose, Miriam Schlein takes a light hearted yet sensitive look at this age old question in *The Way Mothers Are*. Joe Lasker's pictures which have the feel of children's book illustrations out of the past provide the setting for this timeless question.

Judy Driscoll, Retired Teacher, Poulsbo, Washington

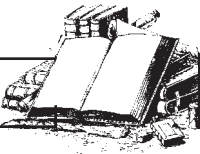
When I feel angry, written by Cornelia
Maude Spelman; illustrated by Nancy
Cote. LCCN 99016859. Morton Grove,
Ill.: Albert Whitman, 2000. HBB,
0807588881, \$14.95.

E. Anger--Fiction; Rabbits--Fiction. unip. Preschool-Primary.

When I Feel Angry teaches children various ways of dealing with anger. The main character, a cute female bunny, sometimes becomes angry. She feels angry when she can't draw the way she'd like to or when classmates make fun of her. She gets angry when her mother makes her stop playing to clean her room. Anger makes her feel like hitting or being mean. She knows there is a difference between feeling like you want to strike someone and actually doing it. The bunny has learned ways of coping with her anger. She can ride her bike very fast or just spend time away from the bunny who made her angry. Sometimes someone needs to change. It could be another bunny or it could be her. Some things that make her angry can't be changed. She can get help figuring it all out by talking to an adult. Now when she gets angry, she has learned ways of handling her feelings.

Author Cornelia Maude Spelman has written an appealing story children will relate to. The personable rabbit illustrations by Nancy Cote really make the book. The relatively simple text and fun drawings combine to effectively tackle a serious topic in a non-threatening way. The first half of the book gives examples of things that make the character angry. The second half presents ways of dealing with those intense feelings in an appropriate way. Written from a secular perspective, other solutions, like praying could easily be added to the list offered. Spelman includes a note to parents making a similar point. Designed to bring about discussion, adults could learn as much about their anger management skills as children.

Elizabeth Coleman, Freelance Writer, Tumwater, Washington



Boy of the deeps, by Ian Wallace. LCCN 90825658. New York: DK Ink, Dorling Kindersley, 1999. HBB, 0789425696, \$16.95.

F. Coal mines and mining--Fiction; Fathers and sons--Fiction; Cape Breton Island (N.S.)--Fiction. unip.

Young James is following in his father's footsteps by working in the turn of the century coal mines of Nova Scotia. It is his first day but he feels confident in being with his father who has worked the mines for twenty years. James' father shows him how to dig for coal until it is lunchtime. James finds that his mother has packed a few daisies in his pail to commemorate his first day. After sharing their lunch, there is a cave-in and James' father is knocked out. After he comes to, they try to dig their way out and other miners come to their aid. Soon they are headed home with the understanding that they will be back, because this is their job.

Boy of the Deeps is loosely based on the experiences of author and illustrator Ian Wallace's grandfather, who was a coal miner in England. The full color illustrations are rather dark and foreboding and give the reader a good sense of what it is like to spend one's days underground in a mine. Even though the story ends happily it leaves the reader questioning the quality of James' life and wondering if he will survive a lifetime of working in the dangerous mines. This book could open up some good discussions with children about other children, past and present, who had very different lifestyles from their own, but the subject may be somewhat dark for younger readers.

Teresa O'Donley, Library Media Specialist, Baymonte Christian School, Scotts Valley, California

The case of the raging Rottweiler, by John R. Erickson; illustrations by Gerald L. Holmes. (Hank the Cowdog; 36.) LCCN 00029091. New York: Viking, Penguin Putnam, 2000. HBB, 0670893641, \$13.99.

F. Dogs--Fiction; Rottweiler dog--Fiction; Ranch life--West (U.S.)--Fiction; Humorous stories; West (U.S.)--Fiction. 131 p. Elementary (Middle school).

Hank the Cowdog is the Head of Ranch Security on a ranch in Texas and takes his role very seriously. His job is to investigate every visitor and mysterious event that occurs within the borders of his domain along with his faithless sidekick, Drover. In this latest adventure in the series by John R. Erickson, Hank and Drover check out a visiting dog on the ranch, which they initially assume is a bear or a gorilla, but is a rottweiler. Hank is sent by Slim the Cowboy to intervene when Bruiser goes after a baby fawn. He is successful in distracting Bruiser, but then pushes his luck when Bruiser is chained in the back of the pickup and Hank begins taunting

and insulting the rottweiler, erroneously assuming he'll never see Bruiser again. Bruiser's new mission in life is to seek revenge against Hank and thus the novel begins.

The charm of these books is the subtle, dry humor of a story told from the perspective of a dog who perceives himself as the embodiment of every shining, glorious doggy virtue, but is in reality, not. The language is pure fun as when he gives the following directive to sidekick, Drover, "Back to the porch, son. Go to Turbo Five and don't speak to any strangers. Let's hit it! ..." Once safely on the porch, "I went straight into a Code Three Barking Sequence." Gerald L. Holmes provides pen and ink drawings throughout the book that capture the characters' thoughts wonderfully in their facial expressions. Hank is a character whose adventures you will want to share again and again.

Sally Kuhns, Teacher, Poulsbo, Washington

Crazy Jacob, by Jim Ware. (KidWitness tales.) LCCN 2001000207. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2000. PAP, 1561798851, \$5.99.

F. Jesus Christ--Miracles--Fiction; Conduct of life--Fiction; Fathers and sons--Fiction; Demoniac possession--Fiction; Bible. N.T.--History of Biblical events--Fiction. 115 p.

Trouble times ten, by David Lambert. (KidWitness tales.) LCCN 00010803. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2000. PAP, 1561798835, \$5.99.

F. Moses (Biblical leader)--Fiction; Fear--Fiction. 116 p.

The worst wish, by Lissa Halls Johnson. (KidWitness tales.) LCCN 00056447. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2000. PAP, 1561798827, \$5.99.

F. Jesus Christ--Miracles--Fiction; Brothers and sisters--Fiction; Raising of Jairus' daughter (Miracle)--Fiction; Jews--Palestine--Fiction. 111 p.

KidWitness Tales is a new series from Heritage Builders, a ministry of Focus on the Family. These stories have fictional children as the main characters and follow them through real events from the Old and New Testaments. Written by different Christian authors, the intent of the series is to "help kids become excited about reading the Bible on their own." While character development is fairly limited, and some readers may be bothered by the creative license taken by the authors, these three titles are successful in bringing to life Bible stories that may be inaccessible to some children. At the end of each book is a section called Letters From Our Readers. The questions these letters cover a range from, "Is this story true? If so, where do I find it (in the Bible)?" to "Why is there so

much gross stuff in this story?" The combination of serious and humorous answers further engage readers in the Bible stories and encourage reflection and discussion.

Crazy Jacob retells the story of the demon-possessed man found in Mark 4:35 - 5:20 and Luke 8:22 - 39. Jim Ware writes from the perspective of the demon-possessed man's young son. This fictional character, Andrew, watches as his beloved father gradually changes from a skilled boatbuilder to a naked, violent madman. Andrew's only hope is a man called Jesus, who people say has healing powers.

In *Trouble Times Ten*, Dave Lambert revisits the land of Egypt during the time of Moses through the eyes of a young Jew named Ben. Ben's biggest fear is water. When he was quite little he almost drowned. As plague after plague comes to Egypt, however, he becomes frightened of things he never imagined before. Ben's biggest challenge comes when he must follow his family and cross the Red Sea to freedom. For a boy terrified of even walking near the river, passing between the huge towers of water proves to be an almost insurmountable obstacle.

The Worst Wish retells the story of Jairus and his daughter. Lissa Halls Johnson creates a fictional brother, Seth, and builds tension by imagining a very poor relationship between he and his sister Tabitha. In fact, things are so bad that Seth wishes Tabitha were dead. Seth and his friends trick Tabitha into drinking a broth into which they have put a lizard, and dirt, and all sorts of disgusting things, and somehow this makes Seth finally feel that he has gotten the upper hand. But when Tabitha suddenly falls deathly ill, Seth blames himself and guilt about his behavior towards his sister torments him. A strange rabbi named Jesus visits the region and Seth's father, Jairus, believes that this controversial rabbi has the power to heal his daughter and also his son's troubled spirit.

Lillian Heytvelt, Public Librarian, Pomeroy, Washington

A delicate balance, written by Monica Hall; based on a teleplay by Debbie Smith and Danna Doyle; from a story by Jennifer Wharton. (Touched by an angel (Television program).) LCCN 98011483. Nashville: Tommy Nelson, Thomas Nelson, 1998. PAP, 0849958024, \$4.99.

F. Gymnastics--Fiction; Guardian angels--Fiction; Angels--Fiction; Brothers and sisters--Fiction; Death--Fiction. 88 p.

Doodlebugs, novelization by Monica Hall; based on a teleplay by Ken LaZebnik; Martha Williamson, executive director. (Touched by an angel (Television program).) LCCN 99010328. Nashville: Tommy Nelson, Thomas Nelson, 1999. PAP, 0849958059, \$4.99.

F. Guardian angels--Fiction; Angels--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 86 p.

Gymnast Rebecca Browner seriously trains to be an Olympic contender. However, widowed Mrs. Browner is having trouble getting sponsors for Rebecca. Rebecca's brother (T.J.) feels sad, alone and neglected because of their nomadic lifestyle. Enter the three Angels from the TV show, *Touched by an Angel*. *A Delicate Balance* retells an episode in which the Angels must help this family reunite, overcome T.J.'s accident, and regroup after Rebecca's fall from the balance beam. *Doodlebugs* is the adaptation of another *Touched by an Angel* episode in which Monica, Tess, and Andrew must help an entire town and their troubled minister. Twelve year old Jess desperately wants her widowed Dad (the town's minister) to marry the lovely Ada. By devising schemes to get the twosome together, Jesse's deviousness lands her into trouble with the entire town. Meanwhile, several townspeople are hearing God's voice via the downtown phone booth. These phone calls inspire some townspeople to open a supper club which unfortunately catches on fire.

Monica Hall (*Have You Seen Me*) has rewritten these hour episodes into a readable tale. As with other adaptations, the entire episode is not included. However, the characters are skillfully created with just the right touch of excitement and drama. Although these two books are essentially a series, they do not need to be read in any particular order. Even those readers not familiar with the TV show will be able to follow the storyline with help from a character profile list at the beginning of each book.

Connie Weaver, Church & Reference Librarian, Newville, Pennsylvania

Great grizzly wilderness : a story of the Pacific rain forest, by Audrey Fraggaloch; illustrated by Donald G. Everhart. (Soundprints habitat series.) LCCN 99044597. Norwalk, Ct.: Soundprints, 2000. HBB, 1568998384, \$15.95.

F. Grizzly bear--Fiction; Bears--Fiction. 27 p.

A grizzly bear briefly wakes from hibernation to give birth and nurse her two baby cubs in the rain forests of the Pacific Northwest. Audrey Fraggaloch takes the reader on a year and a half journey in the lives of the mother grizzly bear and her cubs. As we read about the bears exploring their habitat, searching for food, meeting dangers, and hibernating, a picture of a unique environment, the temperate rain forest of the Pacific Northwest, is vividly painted. Illustrator Donald G. Everhart does this unique area justice with his detailed and colorful paintings.

Although *Great Grizzly Wilderness* is a work of fiction in its story line, the text is factual and well researched with regards to the environment, climate, and habits of the grizzly bear. Included for readers wishing to learn more is a map indicating the area of the Pacific rainforest as well as a section with more details about the rain forest, and addresses to write for additional information about the Koeye River Valley that is depicted in the story.

The end of the book includes two foldout pages with small paintings of each animal native to the rain forest mentioned in the text of the book. This book represents a good introduction to an environment with which many are not familiar.

Barbara Wall, School Library System Director, Orange-Ulster BOCES, Monroe, New York

How do you spell faith? novelization by Monica Hall; based on a teleplay by Michael Glassberg; Martha Williamson, executive director. (Touched by an angel (Television program).) LCCN 98051077. Nashville: Tommy Nelson, Thomas Nelson, 1999. PAP, 0849958040, \$4.99.

F. Mothers and daughters--Fiction; Sisters--Fiction; Death--Fiction; English language--Spelling--Fiction; Guardian angels--Fiction; Angels--Fiction. 86 p.

The scene is set in the high school hallway as two sisters meet. Annie and Kate are complete opposites. Annie loves words and recites from her treasured dictionary; Kate loves basketball and is the star of the team. Although they are very different, their love for each other is very evident. They are truly each other's best friends.

One Friday afternoon Annie is at school taking the test for the Regional Spelling Bee and Kate is off for the big game. Annie is unaware of what has happened until the test is over, but soon discovers that her whole world has fallen apart. In a tragic accident, Kate has been killed. Now Annie has lost her best friend and is left with only her mother. A mother she has never been able to connect with before.

How Do You Spell Faith? is based on the TV series *Touched by an Angel*. Tess, Monica, and Andrew are angels in the book who help both Annie and her mother cope with their loss. Monica Hall has taken an unfortunate situation and shown how our faith in God and His love, he can mend hurts and heal broken relationships. This book shows a beautiful and accepting relationship between sisters, and shows parents how they can overcome favoritism.

Marcia Snyder, Librarian, Missoula, Montana



The lion and the unicorn, by Shirley Hughes. LCCN 98006499. New York: DK Ink, Dorling Kindersley, 1999. HBB, 0789425556, \$17.95.

F. World War, 1939-1945--England--Fiction; Courage--Fiction; Jews--England--Fiction; England--Fiction. unpag.

Lenny's father has gone off to fight in World War II, leaving Lenny and his mother to survive

in wartime London. Before leaving he gives Lenny a medal with a lion and a unicorn on it. After a bombing raid destroys the neighbor's house, Lenny's mother decides that he must go to live in the country.

After traveling on a train, Lenny and three girls, Joyce, Patsy, and Winnie, arrive at the estate of Lady De Vass. The country seems strange and Lenny is lonely and frightened. He also feels different because he is Jewish. No one at his new school is kind to him and he has trouble adjusting. But one day he discovers a hidden garden on the estate that contains a beautiful unicorn statue. He also discovers Mick, a young man there who is friendly to him. But his mother's letters stop coming and he decides to run away to London to find her. On his way out, he thinks he hears a lion coming to devour him and hides in the garden of the unicorn. Ultimately he must decide if he will always be afraid of the "lions" of the world or if he will be brave like the unicorn.

Anyone who has ever been homesick or lonely or felt out of place will identify with Lenny and his fears in *The Lion and the Unicorn*. Shirley Hughes has done a marvelous job of conveying to the reader Lenny's sense of isolation and fear. Her use of the analogies of the fearsome lion and the courageous unicorn are very well done and her illustrations are beautifully warm and vibrant. A lovely book to read aloud with children and discuss not only an important moment in 20th century history but the fears common to us all as well.

Teresa O'Donley, Library Media Specialist, Baymonte Christian School, Scotts Valley, California

My big lie, by Bill Cosby; illustrated by Varnette P. Honeywood. (Little Bill books for beginning readers.) LCCN 98042049. New York: Scholastic, 1999. HBB, 0590521608, \$15.95.

F. Honesty--Fiction; Tardiness--Fiction; Afro-Americans--Fiction. unpag.

In this next release of the Little Bill books, Little Bill gets caught in a big lie. He has permission from his parents to ride his bike to the pool to practice with his friend for the upcoming swim meet, but he has to be home on time for an early dinner.

Little Bill rides his bike by some friends who are playing basketball, and he decides to stop and play with them for awhile. Finally, at seven in the evening, Little Bill realizes he is very late and he knows he's going to be in trouble. With a little of encouragement from his friends, Little Bill considers excuses he can give for not obeying. His parents meet him at the door and demand to know where he's been. Little Bill creates a story about getting into a car with a stranger, to explain his behavior. His dad decides to call the police and Little Bill tells the truth. To punish him, his parents have him write out a copy of the story of "The Boy Who Cried Wolf." Little Bill realizes he wants his parents

to trust him and after a moment they tell him they do.

Bill Cosby has written a light hearted book about a little boy who tells a lie and draws a parallel to "The Boy Who Cried Wolf." The illustrations by Varnette P. Honeywood are simple and colorful.

In the front of the book, a letter to parents is included by child psychiatry specialist, Dr. Alvin Poussaint. He endorses the educational punishment, and explains that since Little Bill's parents maintained their confidence in him, he will try harder to live up to their expectations in the future.

Debby Willett, Freelance Writer, Canyon, Texas

Mystery mutt, by Beverly Lewis. (The cul-de-sac kids; 21.) LCCN 99006754. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2000. PAP, 0764221264, \$3.99.

F. Fruit of the Spirit--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Dogs--Fiction. 73 p.

Three days before New Year's Eve, the meeting of the Cul-de-sac Kids comes to order. Stacy Henry has a great idea for resolutions. She would like each member to select one fruit of the Spirit and improve in that area during the year. All nine members of the club think the idea is cool except Jason Birchall. No one can figure out a way to help him join the fun. At first Stacy thinks her desire to become more loving doesn't include Jason, but quickly realizes loving means loving everyone. Putting her resolution into action, Stacy helps Jason when he finds a dirty stray dog. He would like to keep the dog, but isn't sure his mom will say yes. Perhaps if he and Stacy get the dog really clean, then his mom will let him. When Stacy points out that he is showing kindness to the dog, he realizes this fruit business isn't so bad. At the club meeting on New Year's Eve, Jason admits Stacy's idea wasn't dumb after all and announces he's picked all the fruits of the Spirit to work on during the year.

Mystery Mutt by Beverly Lewis is an entertaining way to present the fruits of the Spirit to children. As each fruit is listed and then selected during the first meeting, a brief explanation of each one is given. Each member of the club is a nice kid, even Jason who initially doesn't seem like one. Smaller lessons are interspersed with the theme. When Jason says Stacy's idea is dumb, another club member, Eric Hagel tells him, "Don't say 'dumb.' It's not cool." Black and white text illustrations by Janet Huntington add depth to the story. A good introduction or review to the fruits of the Spirit.

Elizabeth Coleman, Freelance Writer, Tumwater, Washington

The mystery of the empty safe, created by Gertrude Chandler Warner; illustrated by Charles Tang. (Boxcar children mysteries; 75.) LCCN 99056190. Morton Grove, Ill.: Albert Whitman, 2000. PAP, 0807554634, \$3.95.

F. Mystery and detective stories; Parties--Fiction; Brothers and sisters--Fiction; Orphans--Fiction; Birthdays--Fiction. 121 p.

When their parents died, Henry, Jessie, Violet, and Benny Alden lived in a boxcar until they were united with their grandfather. Now they have a home with him and plenty of adventures to keep them busy like *The Mystery of the Empty Safe*, a recent addition to The Boxcar Children series created by Gertrude Chandler Warner.

The Alden children are hired to plan parties in a wealthy neighborhood, where every house was built with its own safe. But at each home where the Aldens are busily entertaining, someone breaks into the safe and steals its valuable contents.

The children take on the task of discovering the thief. Is it Cassandra the Great, the mercurial magician who is upset that the Aldens are infringing on her business? After all, the highlight of her shows is a trick where she magically causes the items in a safe to disappear. Is it the gruff Mr. Woodruff, who happens to be good at fixing things—like the locks on safes? As they sift through possible clues, the young sleuths struggle against jumping to conclusions. They decide to set a trap at their next party and help police nab the crook, whose identity surprises everyone.

As in other selections in the series, the Boxcar Children demonstrate timeless Judeo-Christian values without specifically referring to religion. They treat others with respect. They are polite to adults, friendly to children, and helpful to those facing misfortune. They are also a resourceful bunch, making the most of their time and possessions.

Children will enjoy an engrossing mystery and the detailed descriptions of the crafts, refreshments, and decorations that the Boxcar Children choose in planning the parties. This book is a good addition to any home or school library.

Sharon Berg, Freelance Writer, Bellevue, Nebraska

The mystery of the painted snake, by Elspeth Campbell; illustrated by Joe Nordstrom. (Three cousins detective club; 29.) LCCN 00010528. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2000. PAP, 076422137X, \$3.99.

F. Painting--Fiction; Cousins--Fiction; Mystery and detective stories. 64 p.

Budding artist and Three Cousins Detective Club member, Timothy Dawson made something out of papier-mache for everyone on his Christmas list this year. Timothy carefully hid all the gifts, especially the snake for his cousin, Titus. When Timothy's baby sister, Priscilla, finds the snake before Christmas, Titus gets an early present and a mystery begins to unfold. Titus' sister Sarah-Jane notices the design on the back of the snake and Timothy explains he copied the snake from a mural at the Arts Center. At first the snake on the mural had no design, then later the design mysteriously

appeared. Timothy liked the design and decided to add it to his papier-mache creation. The cousins decide to visit the mural. They are shocked to see the snake has no design and has clearly been painted over. Studying the design, they realize it is a message in Morse code. By breaking the code and following the clues, the cousins solve the mystery.

While *The Mystery of the Painted Snake* is based on Psalm 102:8, the connection between the Psalm and the story is subtle. Author Elspeth Campbell Murphy has created likeable kids who are kind, thoughtful, and genuine. This comes across most when the cousins deal with Priscilla. While not thrilled about including her, they do so to avoid making her cry on several occasions. The mystery they solve is believable, with a mild amount of suspense. Fifteen chapters long, each chapter consists of two to three pages. Black and white text illustrations and color cover art by Joe Nordstrom add interest. A Morse Code chart is included, further engaging readers.

Elizabeth Coleman, Freelance Writer, Tumwater, Washington

Oliver and Albert, friends forever, by Jean Van Leeuwen; pictures by Ann Schwenger. (Dial easy-to-read.) LCCN 99027593. New York: Phyllis Fogelman Books, Penguin Putnam, 2000. HBB, 0803725175, \$13.99.

F. Pigs--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction; Schools--Fiction. 48 p.

Mrs. Theodora Pig's class has a new student, Albert. Oliver and his friends notice immediately that Albert is different. Albert is bigger than the other pigs and he can already read. Albert cannot, however, play kickball. Distracted by a caterpillar while playing outfield, Albert shows the bug to Oliver and a friendship begins to form. Oliver invites Albert to his house to practice kicking and catching. With Oliver's help, Albert improves. Their mutual interest in insects and bugs continues as their teacher displays various creatures on a science table. To learn more about a spider found in the classroom, Oliver and Albert check books out from the library. Since Oliver can't read yet, Albert reads to him. When Oliver and Albert find a grasshopper at recess, they work together to catch it and bring it to the science table.

Oliver and Albert, Friends Forever is the continuing story of Oliver Pig. Four chapters long, author Jean Van Leeuwen has written a meaningful easy reader. Many children will relate to being the new student, not being good at an activity, or just being different. Oliver provides a good role model. When the other students begin to make fun of Albert's kickball play, Oliver steps in and tells them to stop because Albert is his friend. When Oliver helps Albert with his kicking and catching, a sound solution is offered, one that readers could also employ. Colorful illustrations by Ann Schwenger add to the charm and provide

additional interest. There are many lessons to be gleaned from this seemingly simple chapter book.

Elizabeth Coleman, Freelance Writer, Tumwater, Washington

***Safe at home : a baseball card mystery*, by Robert Skead. Grand Island, Neb.: Cross Training, 1999. PAP, 188700291X, \$5.95.**

F. Baseball--Fiction; Baseball cards--Fiction. 94 p.

Robert Skead has written a heartwarming story of family and baseball in *Safe at Home*. Trevor, is eleven years old and loves to watch baseball with his great-grandfather. They love to discuss the plays and share the memories of when his great-grandfather played baseball and stole home on the Babe. Trevor is surprised one day when his great-grandfather gives him a Babe Ruth rookie card valued at \$50,000. Trevor has never seen this much money before and can hardly comprehend what that means. It doesn't matter though, because Trevor would never sell the card.

Things begin to fall apart, however, when Trevor takes the card to school and it is stolen from his backpack. Then the man from the newspaper wants to do an article about his great-grandpa, and now they want him to talk at a school assembly and bring the card with him. What will Trevor do now? How can he face his great-grandpa when he doubts that he is telling the truth? How can he tell his great-grandpa that he lost the card?

This is a charming story of the relationships between parents, children, and grandchildren. It would be especially interesting to young boys who love or dream of baseball. Trevor depends on his family and the values he has learned to carry him through this crisis. Trevor eventually learns a priceless lesson about friendship, truth and forgiveness.

Marcia Snyder, Librarian, Missoula, Montana

***The secret of the ghostly hot rod*, by Bill Myers; with David Winbush. (Bloodhounds, Inc.; 7.) LCCN 00008427. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2000. PAP, 1556614918, \$5.99.**

F. Brothers and sisters--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Mystery and detective stories. 126 p.

Wealthy widow, Mrs. Sanks, hires Sean and Melissa Henry to find out who is stealing her peaches. Brother and sister, Sean and Melissa own the detective agency, Bloodhounds Incorporated. While watching Mrs. Sank's peach trees, a 1956 Chevy nearly runs down their dog, Slobs. The car has no driver and mysteriously disappears. As members of the Midvale community hear about the strange car, wild theories are formed. Many believe a dead resident has returned for revenge, while a few think Elvis Presley is cruising through town. Sean and Melissa refuse to believe any of these ideas. By following clues and using wild inventions, Bloodhounds Incorporated is able to solve the mystery.

The Secret of the Ghostly Hot Rod has a number of unbelievable plot points. For example, Jeremiah is a green leprechaun like character who is created by the Henry's scientist friend. Jeremiah is not actually human, but described as "a bundle of nervous energy." He randomly appears in various sizes on computer monitors, watch faces, and television screens. The reader is asked to suspend their disbelief a number of times and the solution to the mystery is rather farfetched. Sean and Melissa are good role models, sticking firmly to their beliefs and trying to help their community. They are siblings, however, and they have moments of slight disagreement. Overall, they get along and seem to enjoy each other's company. Mildly suspenseful, the title is the scariest part of the book. Young readers will be entertained with Bill Myers' successful combination of comedy and kid-friendly writing.

Elizabeth Coleman, Freelance Writer, Tumwater, Washington

***Spunky's diary*, by Janette Oke; illustrated by Nancy Munger. (Janette Oke's animal friends.) LCCN 00011550. Minneapolis: Bethany Backyard, Bethany House, 2000. PAP, 0764224050, \$5.99.**

F. Dogs--Fiction; Animals--Infancy--Fiction; Diaries--Fiction. 60 p.

***The prodigal cat*, by Janette Oke; illustrated by Nancy Munger. (Janette Oke's animal friends.) LCCN 00011551. Minneapolis: Bethany Backyard, Bethany House, 2000. PAP, 0764224069, \$5.99.**

F. Cats--Fiction; Pride and vanity--Fiction. 60 p.

***The impatient turtle*, by Janette Oke; illustrated by Nancy Munger. (Janette Oke's animal friends.) LCCN 00011552. Minneapolis: Bethany Backyard, Bethany House, 2000. PAP, 0764224077, \$5.99.**

F. Turtles--Fiction; Self-acceptance--Fiction. 59 p.

Spunky introduces himself and his life. That life includes his family, the Dobson's. The children, Tracy and Mark, are fun, but Mark is the special one because he's the one who takes care of Spunky. Mark takes Spunky on a walk to the park and there they find lots of other kids to play with. Spunky wants a ball small enough that he can carry. He looks around and finds a small blue ball in a sand box. Mark teaches him a lesson about not taking things that don't belong to him, and Spunky returns the ball to the sand box. One Sunday morning Spunky does not want to be left behind, so after the Dobsons leave for church, Spunky looks for and finds a way to escape the backyard. All he wants to do is to be with his family. He uses his nose to find them and causes a mild disturbance at church. His adventures are not yet over, though. The Dobsons take Spunky with them to a farm where he outdoes himself in establishing his presence. Before long fall comes and Tracy and Mark return to school. That is when Spunky has his most exciting adventures!

Who knew finding a home would be so difficult? Mittens is one of five kittens born to

Tabby. Her birth home becomes her late home after she and her siblings begin to break things in their zestful playing. The little girl, Cindy, helps carry them to the animal shelter where they will find new homes. Though it is scary there, Mittens has hope that a new home awaits her. Before long, Dorothy adopts her and brings the kitten home. The new home has the added interest of a puppy, Tabby. After school has started in the fall, Dorothy and her parents go on a picnic and bring Mittens and Tabby along. The kitten decides to teach Dorothy a lesson by hiding from her, which only creates a new problem for Mittens—that of being lost. Mittens' life then changes in ways that she could not expect, and after awhile, she finds herself ministering to the residents in a rest home.

Pogo hates being a turtle. In fact, he hates it so much he spends half of his young life looking for ways to become different. While playing with his friends in the water, they decided to tease some ducks by nipping at their feet which dangle below. When the mother duck leads her babies away, Pogo looks to other amusements to add excitement to his life. Even though he knows it is dangerous to be around the hooks thrown by fishermen, Pogo enjoys tricking them by tugging on their submerged lines. Boredom soon gives way to other games and he talks his friends into sliding down a slope, just as he saw some boys doing. The problem with that, is the turtles can't carry enough water up the slope to make it slippery enough, and all the turtles soon tire. Soon a thunderstorm comes along, and Pogo and his friends look for new adventures. Poor Pogo. Everything he wants to do is slowed down by his shell. That is until he meets up with another critter also looking for adventure.

Spunky's Diary, *The Impatient Turtle*, and *The Prodigal Cat* by Janette Oke are charming first chapter books for young children. The sentences are short, the words are simple, and the books are full of action. Each chapter is a lesson on what should and should not be done. Nancy Munger's illustrations are detailed and colorful, with a bit of whimsy. The covers are treated to withstand longterm use. Children ages six to ten are the target audience, but I think younger children will enjoy the stories just as much. They are great read-to books, and are recommended for every library.

Debby Willett, Freelance Writer, Canyon, Texas

★

***The wide-awake princess*, by Katherine Paterson; illustrated by Vladimir Vagin. LCCN 99030879. New York: Clarion Books, Houghton Mifflin, 2000. HBB, 0395537770, \$15.00.**

F. Kings, queens, rulers, etc.--Fiction; Princesses--Fiction. 47 p.

Katherine Paterson is an author who can truly spin a yarn. *The Wide-awake Princess* is just such a story. At first the reader thinks this might be another sleeping beauty variation only to

discover that it is quite different and with a much deeper message.

Miranda is a princess born to a King and Queen who are bored with everything and have lost touch with their subjects, the peasants who farm the land and provide the basis for all the luxury in the palace. Even the nobles only spend their days arguing about useless things. But Miranda is different. Her godmother has given her the special gift of being wide-awake during all her waking hours. As Miranda grows up, she is interested in everything, never bored, and always exploring the world around her. After Miranda's parents, the King and Queen die, the nobles of the land refuse to allow Miranda to assume the throne. Miranda is after all a girl and still young. At age twelve Miranda decides to go out into the kingdom and explore what the world has to offer. Miranda becomes a friend of the peasants who do not know who she is, and soon helps them to appreciate the value of what they already have in order to make changes in a way of life. Eventually the peasants rise up peacefully and take back the kingdom with Miranda as their leader.

Katherine Paterson has woven into the story of a princess, the wonder of learning to find resources within you to make change come about. *The Wide-awake Princess* is a peaceful revolution and a polite feminist statement making both points quite effectively without needless rhetoric. The art is pencil with watercolor and a pleasure to look at.

Barbara Wall, School Library System Director, Orange-Ulster BOCES, Monroe, New York

***The yellow star : the legend of King Christian X of Denmark*, by Carmen Agra Deedy; illustrated by Henri Sorensen. LCCN 00010602. Atlanta, Ga.: Peachtree, 2000. HBB, 1561452084, \$16.95.**

F. Christian X, King of Denmark, 1870-1947--Fiction; Denmark--History--German occupation, 1940-1945--Fiction. unip.

The Yellow Star does a superb job of making dark subject matter—the Holocaust—accessible to young readers. Readers first meet King Christian as he rides his horse through the streets of Nazi-occupied Denmark. When the order is given that a Nazi flag must fly above his palace, he defies the order. When the Nazis demand that all Jews wear a yellow star, the king ponders

what to do, and gazing at the night sky, is inspired by the millions of stars overhead. The next morning he rides through the streets with a yellow star sewn on his jacket. The Danish people see by example what they are to do and overnight everyone begins wearing the yellow star.

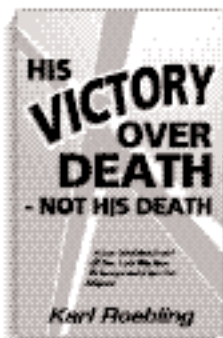
"And once again, in the country of Denmark, there were only Danes." Henri Sorensen's wonderful double-page illustrations draw viewers into the events of this terrible time in a way that informs without terrifying. Close-up portraits and street scenes depict the warmth and the strength of the Danish people going about their daily lives. In contrast, dark tones dramatize the confrontation between the Nazi commander and the king.

Carmen Agra Deedy's author's note is an important part of the book as it explains what is known to be true about this legend. It also makes clear the moral issue that is truly the most important idea to bring away from the book: "What if we could follow that example today against violators of human rights?"

Lillian Heytvelt, Public Librarian, Pomeroy, Washington

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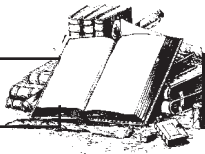


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200's—Religion

***The Usborne children's Bible : a collection of Bible stories, retold by Heather Amery; illustrated by Linda Edwards.* London, Eng.: Usborne, 1998. HBB, 0746030436, \$19.95.**

220. Bible stories. 144 p.

The Usborne Children's Bible is a collection of twenty-one Old Testament and twenty-three New Testament stories. The stories and parables are carefully retold in simple, straightforward language by Heather Amery, in consultation with biblical scholars and advisers. For the most part, the stories are organized in the same sequence as the Bible with a demarcation of the Old and New Testaments. Each story has at least one illustration, and often more, depicting the action and scenes.

Illustrator Linda Edwards has created beautiful and decorative illustrations and borders. Her bold, bright colors will be attractive to young children, as will the straightforward depictions of characters and scenes. The illustrations help the world of the Bible come to life with the portrayals of people, clothes, houses, and landscapes. Each page is surrounded by a colorful border which adds interest all pages. The combination of simple text and attractive illustrations make this a wonderful book for young readers and audiences alike.

Kerri Cunningham, Librarian, Camano Island, Washington

***Focus on the Family presents The Adventures in Odyssey Bible : including the full text of the New King James Version.* LCCN 00699766. Nashville: Tommy Nelson, Thomas Nelson, 2000. PAP, 1561798517, \$16.99.**

220. Bible--Children's use. 1677 p.

Children familiar with Focus on the Family's *Adventures in Odyssey* radio series and videos will love this new addition: *The Adventures in Odyssey Bible*, a New King James paperback featuring their favorite characters on a bright red cover.

Designed to teach children how to study for themselves, and to relate the Word to their lives, the *Odyssey Bible* enables them to move quickly through Old and New Testaments using a reference-linked study system. In thirty-two pages of brightly-colored comics, *Odyssey* characters delight readers with engaging stories. Fifty memory verses appear in special little boxes. Extra teaching comes through Whit's Wisdom columns and from miniature *Odyssey* characters, who appear 100 times to clarify the Scriptures.

Focus on the Family has created a Bible children will treasure. Its format and illustrations entice, motivate, and instruct. One reference link summarizes the story of Nadab and Abihu in Leviticus. "To meet a brother and sister who were jealous, fly to page 190." The readers zoom to the next reference and learn to help their siblings do what God wants—avoid sinning against Him and getting each other into trouble. In one comic insert, two brothers on stilts learn the importance of obedience.

Children will grasp powerful understandings from a text with high reader identity content. Nearly 1700 pages long, *The Adventures in Odyssey Bible* is easy to handle. It will become a dear friend, and youngsters will exclaim with affection, "This is my Bible!"

Rhonda Marie Lackey, Writer/Substitute Teacher/Former Librarian, Tukwila, Washington

***The Old Testament : the Usborne children's Bible, retold by Heather Amery; illustrated by Linda Edwards.* London, Eng.: Usborne, 1999. HBB, 0746034571, \$15.95.**

221.9'505. Bible stories--O.T.. 72 p.

Heather Amery has chosen twenty-two stories from the Old Testament of the Bible for her retelling in *The Usborne Children's Bible : The Old Testament*. These stories are surely some of the best-loved and most important stories from the Bible. Our Christian history as told first through the stories of the Old Testament is one that is rich with interesting people living in God's world. Each story and each character is represented with reverence and understanding in the easier language of our times. As a means of becoming familiar with the stories of the Bible, this is an excellent venue. After hearing or reading these retellings, children will certainly be encouraged to read the originals in the Bible. Although worded and formatted for use with children, adults will enjoy the story essence in such treasures as Noah and his Ark and Joseph and his wonderful coat. The modern language does not take away from the beauty of the Biblical stories.

Illustrator Linda Edwards has provided simple, colorful pictures for each story. Most of the illustrations are small, although for several stories there are full-page panels. Each page has a border unique to that story. Joseph and his wonderful coat is bordered with multi-colored diagonal stripes reminiscent of that wonderful coat. Moses leads his people out of Egypt includes a full page illustration of one of the plagues God delivered upon Egypt prior to Pharaoh permitting the Israelites to leave with Moses. Full of detail without becoming

cluttered, this illustration is bound to spark discussion of this important event in our Christian history. This retelling of loved Bible stories is a pleasure to read and view.

Barbara Wall, School Library System Director, Orange-Ulster BOCES, Monroe, New York

***At break of day, written by Nikki Grimes; illustrated by Paul Morin.* LCCN 95030389. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1999. HBB, 0802851045, \$17.00.**

231.7'65. Creation; God. unip.

This story begins once upon a time when there was no time. There was only darkness and the waters of the deep and a father and son who watched over them. The book follows the days of creation as the son speaks it into being and the father approvingly looks on. There is great excitement as each new, beautiful creation is added. When all the work is finished and everything is perfect, both the father and son stop and rest. They admire the work of their creation.

Nikki Grimes has found a new and creative way to tell the story of creation in *At Break of Day*. The book has a bit of the traditional culture of storytelling. The scene is set and you listen intently as the story unfolds. Paul Morin has created some exquisite illustrations. The pages are covered with colors and textures. The sun seems to almost be burning on the page. It reflects a beautiful combination of styles. This book would make a delightful addition for young and old.

Marcia Snyder, Librarian, Missoula, Montana

***Love one another : the last days of Jesus, retold by Lauren Thompson; illustrated by Elizabeth Vyevara.* LCCN 99025157. New York: Scholastic, 2000. HBB, 0590318306, \$15.95.**

232.9'7. Jesus Christ--Resurrection; Jesus Christ--Biography--Passion Week; Easter. unip.

Throughout his ministry, Jesus teaches people to love God and each other. Crowds are drawn to him and his words. Jesus continues to teach the crowds, his followers, and his disciples even as his own death looms imminent. Although his disciples do not comprehend what is coming, Jesus continues to love and teach them. After his trial, Jesus is crucified at the crowd's insistent urging. Mary arrives at the tomb, and finds the tomb empty. She inquires of a man nearby, "Someone has taken our dear teacher away. Can you tell me where?" When he speaks, she knows he is alive rather than in the tomb. Later disciples gather with Jesus, and

learn that they will now teach others as Jesus taught them to love God and one another.

The author, Lauren Thompson, shares the Easter story of Christ's ministry, crucifixion, and resurrection in plain language that follows the biblical accounts. She reveals in the author's note that to her "the heart of the Easter miracle is this: No sorrow is so great that love cannot heal it." Her retelling of the story closely reflects scripture. The oil on canvas paintings by Elizabeth Uyehara are vibrant and moving. They communicate the essence of each scene, and portray the crucifixion in realistic, but loving terms. One departure from scripture is that Jesus is painted on the cross with rope binding him there.

Carol M. Jones, Librarian, South Side Elementary School and Marquette, Pre-K Center, Champaign, Illinois

All things bright and beautiful, text by Cecil Frances Alexander; illustrated by Preston McDaniels. LCCN 99049717. Harrisburg, Pa.: Morehouse Publishing, 2000. HBB, 0819218340, \$17.99.

264'.23. Nature--Religious aspects--Christianity; Praise of God; Nature--Songs and music; Creation--Songs and music; Hymns. unsp.

The hymn "All Things Bright and Beautiful" by Cecil Frances Alexander is a beloved and well-known celebration of God's creation. The hymn joyfully recounts God's handiwork as displayed in plants, animals, and the earth itself, and then reminds the listener that God also gave us eyes to see and lips to tell "how great is God Almighty who had made all things well."

This well-known and beloved hymn is whimsically illustrated by Preston McDaniels and placed in a picture book format. The second in a series of hymns to be illustrated by McDaniels, *All Things Bright and Beautiful* is a wonderful tool for sharing God's creation and power with young children. As in *God of the Sparrow*, the first book in the series, the illustrations are fantastical and fanciful and will undoubtedly be attractive to young children. Humor is evident on most every page. However, unlike *God of the Sparrow*, this hymn makes for a very straight-forward picture book. Its clarity of point and directness of theme allow even a very young listener to understand its message. Music and words to the hymn are included.

Kerri A. Cunningham, Librarian, Camano Island, Washington



From Arapesh to Zuni: a book of Bibleless Peoples, by Karen Lewis; illustrations by Alice Erath Roder. Orlando, Fla.: Wycliffe Bible Translators, 1986. PAP, 0938978071, \$5.95.

266. Missions; Bible--Translating. 32 p.

From *Arapesh to Zuni: A Book of Bibleless Peoples* is an alphabet book with a difference. From among thousands of people groups without the Bible in their "heart language," twenty-six people groups from various countries

on six continents are illustrated and briefly described—one for each letter of the alphabet. Each letter page features a three-inch-wide column with simple text by Karen Lewis describing elements of the culture and climate of the people group pictured in an 8-inch by 8 1/2-inch full-color illustration. Alice Erath Roder based her uncluttered paintings on photographs focusing upon people from each area. Beneath the name of each people group is a guide to correct pronunciation of that name. Each page ends with the refrain that "The ... people do not have the Bible in their own language." A world map at the end of the book shows the location and population of each of the people groups featured.

The introduction to this appealing book encourages prayer for Bibleless peoples. Originally published in 1986, the 1994 revision notes progress in the translation efforts for some of the languages featured. (Some Scriptures are now available in several of these languages. Before her recent death from cancer, Lewis had hoped to proceed with a second book, describing twenty-six more from among the more than 3000 people groups still without the Scriptures. Her partner plans to carry on with that vision.) These snapshots of the lives of people around the world remind readers that God loves people from all cultures. The task of translating the Bible into remaining languages is immense. Readers who have Internet access may wish to check translation progress in the various languages using the online Ethnologue produced by the Summer Institute of Linguistics (www.sil.org/ethnologue/).

Donna W. Bowling, Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics Library, Dallas, Texas

Crafts for Christian values, by Kathy Ross; illustrated by Sharon Lane Holm. LCCN 00021805. Brookfield, Ct.: Millbrook Press, 2000. HBB, 0761316183, \$24.90.

268'.432. Bible crafts; Values--Study and teaching; Christian education of children. 63 p.

Crafts for Christian Values offers twenty-eight easy to make projects, each meant to reinforce a Christian character quality. A supply list, step by step instructions, and clear simple drawings are provided, guiding the reader through each craft. Believing that children need models to remind them to practice Godly behavior, author Kathy Ross has designed these projects as a concrete way to encourage children to practice God's values.

Christian children's group leaders and teachers will appreciate the clear instructions and the connection between each project and its character quality. One scripture reference is given for each activity; the reader will need to look up the text. Materials needed for each craft are commonly available and inexpensive. Projects are simple and few are made for long lasting quality. Some entries have odd material choices, such as using staples to secure fabric seams. This reader was continually thinking of

how to change one or two things in each selection, to make improvements. Experienced teachers will find the usual material choices and typical project ideas. Nonetheless, a creative leader will discover selections that can be easily modified to supplement existing Christian School, Sunday School, or home school curriculum; and projects that will be meaningful and fun for kids.

Karen Brehmer, Teacher, Sylvan Way Christian School, Bremerton, Washington

300's—Social Sciences

Mountain town, by Bonnie and Arthur Geisert. LCCN 99029856. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2000. HBB, 0395953901, \$16.00.

305.5. Mountain life; Cities and towns; City and town life; Seasons. 32 p.

Mountain Town is the third book in Bonnie and Arthur Geisert's series of books (*River Town* and *Prairie Town*) illustrating the lifestyles of differing types of towns for young readers. The clever illustrations cycle the reader from winter to winter through a year in small town in the mountains. The book does a nice job of depicting life in a rural American town that is mainly dependent on mining and lumber for income. The finely detailed illustrations are extremely fun to look at and readers will be able to see "mini-stories" happening—from a chimney that is slowly being built, to a blue car that shows up all over town, to an attempted bank robbery. Great book for reinforcing younger readers' social studies lessons.

Teresa O'Donley, Library Media Specialist, Baymonte Christian School, Scotts Valley, California

Do you remember the color blue? : and other questions kids ask about blindness, by Sally Hobart Alexander. LCCN 99034130. New York: Viking, Penguin Putnam, 2000. HBB, 0670880434, \$15.99.

305.9'08161. Alexander, Sally Hobart; Blind; Physically handicapped; Blind authors--Biography. 78 p. (All ages).

After teacher Sally Hobart Alexander went blind in early adulthood, she wondered if she would be able to continue her teaching career. Her question found an answer, yes, still a teacher in a new way. Sally shares with her students both in classrooms, and now through her book *Do You Remember The Color Blue?* her answers and insights into the many questions children and adults have asked her about blindness. Her answers are honest, complete, and thought provoking. She tells without embarrassment how she went blind, her feelings then and now about being blind, and how she lives her daily life. Answering questions many of us may have never had the courage to ask, she puts her reader at ease giving them a much greater understanding of what it means to live in a world without color or dimension.

While the book is illustrated with a few photographs in black and white, it is meant to be a resource book on blindness, not a picture book

for children; to be read in short sittings rather than all at once, and used as a guide and resource for further exploration of the world of the blind. The book contains resources at the end for further study, and is indexed.

Judy Driscoll, Retired Teacher, Poulsbo, Washington

What is a teacher? by Barbara Lehn; photographs by Carol Krauss. LCCN 00021495. Brookfield, Ct.: Millbrook Press, 2000. HBB, 0761317139, \$19.90.

371.1. Teachers; Occupations. unsp.

In this gentle follow-up to *What is a Scientist?* author Barbara Lehn suggests many possible answers to the question "What is a teacher?". A teacher encourages, demonstrates, never gives up, shares, etc. Each attribute is wonderfully illustrated by lovely photographs taken by Carol Krauss. The photographs have brightly colored borders that are very appealing to the eye and portray children teaching others. At the end of the book are two pages summing up all the things that teachers do.

This charming book not only reinforces in a child's mind all the incredible ways that teachers help us, but shows the child that we all are teachers of one sort or another and that even children are involved in this activity much of the time. This would be an affirming book to read with a young child and would be a fine springboard to discussions on how they "teach."

Teresa O'Donley, Library Media Specialist, Baymonte Christian School, Scotts Valley, California

Happy New Year, everywhere! by Arlene Erlbach; illustrated by Sharon Lane Holm. LCCN 99057335. Brookfield, Ct.: Millbrook Press, 2000. HBB, 0761317074, \$22.90.

394.2614. New Year; Holidays. 48 p.

"Bòn Aneé!" This is "Happy New Year" in Creole, one of Haiti's two official languages. In India, it's "Sal Mubarak" (sal muh-BAH-rahk), in Greece it's "Chronia Pólla" (KRON-yah pole-AH), and in Germany it's "Frohes Neues Jahr" (FROY-es NOY-ess Yar). From Belgium to Viet Nam, author Arlene Erlbach presents delightful details covering twenty countries around the world and how children celebrate New Year's Eve in those countries. The information is attractively arranged on double-page spreads, including the date for the New Year, the special greeting and how to pronounce it, and a light-hearted description of that country's celebration traditions. A small world map appears in the upper left corner of each double-page spread showing the location of the country being featured.

A special bonus are the craft and activity ideas for each country's New Year traditions. For instance, Belgium children complete a New Year's letter to their parents in which they express their gratitude and include their promises for the new year. They decorate these letters with drawings, stickers and glitter, and on New Year's Day, each child stands on a chair

and reads the letter to his or her parents "to show them how much they are appreciated." Some activities to be aware of include Germany (a fortune telling game), and India (lighting lamps to invite Lakshmi, India's "goddess of wealth and prosperity"). However, the cultural information is interesting and can be used to compare or contrast with our own traditions in the U.S. Delightful illustrations by Sharon Lane Holm appear on every page, done in a clear style using pen and watercolor, adding lots of charm to this well-researched book.

Kimm Swenson Gollnick, Writer, Speaker & Teacher (Marion Independent Schools), Marion, Iowa

The girl who spun gold, by Virginia Hamilton; illustrated by Leo & Diane Dillon. LCCN 99086365. New York: The Blue Sky Press, Scholastic, 2000. HBB, 0590473786, \$16.95.

398.2. Fairy tales; Folklore--West Indies. unsp.

Virginia Hamilton's book, *The Girl Who Spun Gold*, is her retelling of the story of a cruel little man who helps a woman spin fibers into gold, often known by the German title of the best known version of this story, "Rumpelstiltskin." Hamilton's version is taken from a West Indian variant, called "Mr. Titman" (meaning "little man"), which she took from a collection of stories by Pamela Colman Smith, published by R. H. Russell, New York, in 1899. Smith used a difficult-to-read black dialect, which Hamilton translated for her story into a simpler style that she says "is easy to read aloud and is a truer reflection of a lilting West Indian speech pattern."

The book's illustrations, painstakingly done using a four-color process overpainted in gold, with gold leaf borders, look as if they were simple to do, but the illustrators (Caldecott-medal-winners Leo and Diane Dillon) say they weren't. "[Although we knew] the difficulty of painting with metallic paint as well as the difficulty of reproducing gold, we still chose to use it, for the story itself revolves around the concept of gold."

The human faces (including main characters Queen Quashiba and Big King) are strong and attractive, while the villain, Lit' mahn Bittyun, is evil-looking, with yellow eyes, pointed teeth, and a long pointed tail. The costumes and detailed backgrounds add to the strong West Indian flavor already present in the story through Hamilton's use of colloquial speech. The Dillons and Hamilton have collaborated on other books before, but this is their first picture book together.

Betty Winslow, Bowling Green Christian Academy, Bowling Green, Ohio

The legend of the kite : a story of China, by Jiang Hong Chen. LCCN 99028855. Norwalk, Ct.: Soundprints, 1999. HBB, 1568998104, \$15.95.

398.2'0951'07. Kites--Folklore; Folklore--China. 32 p.

A boy and his grandfather try the boy's new kite during the annual kite flying festival in China when the string of the magnificent dragon kite snaps and the kite is shredded. To take his grandson's mind off his disappointment, the old man tells him the legend on which the kite festival is based. Long ago a boy and girl grew up as neighbors in old Beijing. When they became of age, they thought to marry; but before they could the emperor heard of the young woman's beauty and demanded that she come to live at court. In great sorrow, the woman prepared to leave; but her faithful betrothed found a way. He painted a beautiful kite in the likeness of his beloved, and while all of Beijing marveled at the sight of a woman flying, they fled the city to live happily ever after. Enchanted with the story, the boy is determined to make a new kite.

The Legend of the Kite by Jiang Hong Chen is beautifully illustrated by the author in the classic style of Chinese painting. Medieval China is depicted with detail, grace, and humor as the backdrop for this typical fairy tale of star-crossed lovers. The text is spare and, curiously, the present day part of the story is written in present tense; the more commonly used past tense being reserved for that part of the story that takes place in the past. The last several pages provide readers with a map of the People's Republic of China, some facts about China and a page on the place of kites in Chinese culture. The pronunciation for several Chinese words used in the text is provided, as well as a translation. This is a gentle book that is amenable to a variety of uses from art class, to social studies, to storytime.

Pamela A. Todd, Librarian/English Teacher, Chalcedon Christian School, Cumming, Georgia

The hatseller and the monkeys : a West African folktale, retold and illustrated by Baba Wagué Diakité. LCCN 98016250. New York: Scholastic, 1999. HBB, 0590960695, \$15.95.

398.2'096623'02. Folklore--Mali. unsp. (Preschool).

The hatseller is filled with happiness. He loves to sell hats to everyone in his own and neighboring villages. He makes different kinds and colors of hats: the wide-brimmed dibri hat that offers shade on hot summer days, and the close fitting fugulan caps that keep the rain away. Because he is so happy, when he enters the villages the children run to him and sing along with him. He works extra hard for a big festival they are celebrating and forgets to eat. On his way to town BaMusa becomes so weak from hunger that he has to stop and rest under the shade of the mango tree. There are many monkeys in that mango tree, and they take all his hats and fall asleep high up in the tree. How is BaMusa ever going to get his hats back?

When the monkeys throw mangoes down at BaMusa he decides to eat some and get his strength back. Now he can think clearly! BaMusa's clever and funny antics finally trick

the monkeys into throwing their hats back at him. He picks them up and hurries to the festival where he is able to sell all of his hats. The now wiser BaMusa realizes that one thinks best with a full stomach—"For an empty satchel cannot stand."

The storyline is simple and filled with fun and unusual words. Some meanings are obvious, and others are given. The illustrations are colorful and humorous, becoming as important to the story as the words. The Author's Note at the end of the book introduces the author/illustrator, Baba Wague Diakite, who explains the tradition of hat-making and the life lessons one learns from this simple story, *The Hatseller and the Monkeys*.

Mary McKinney, Writer, Editor, Former Teacher, Port Orchard, Washington

Fables of Aesop, by Aesop; illustrated by Tom Lynch. LCCN 00008088. New York: Viking, Penguin Putnam, 2000. HBB, 0670889482, \$15.99.

398.24'.52. Fables, Greek--Translations into English; Fables; Folklore. unip.

The fables of Aesop seek to teach virtues that will make life better for those who choose to practice them. Loyalty, gratitude, kindness, and modesty are some of the values common to Aesop. *Fables of Aesop* is a collection of thirteen fables. The clever fox and the foolish crow, the vain peacock who learns a lesson, the little mouse who helps a lion are a few of the memorable characters found in this collection of fables.

Tom Lynch brings a fresh new-life to these tales. He has adapted the text to a crisp, one-page dialogue. Each one is precise and to the point with the lesson spelled out at the conclusion. So remember... Lynch illustrates these well-loved tales with brilliant and colorful fabric collages. This book is a great example of how children could illustrate their own stories with collage.

Marcia Snyder, Librarian, Missoula, Montana

400's—Language

Seeker of knowledge : the man who deciphered Egyptian hieroglyphs, by James Rumford. LCCN 99037254. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2000. HBB, 039597934X, \$15.00.

493'.1'.092. Champollion, Jean-Francois, 1790-1832; Egyptian language--Writing, Hieroglyphic; Egyptologists. unip.

In the opening years of the nineteenth century, the people of France were enthralled with the artifacts coming to them as a result of Napoleon's conquest of Egypt. Among them was a young boy whose fascination for the enigma of Egypt's ancient writing was to determine the course of his life. Jean-Francois Champollion first heard of the mysterious writings when he was only seven years old, but even at that age, he was determined to translate the strange pictures. Throughout his growing years he devoured anything he could find about

Egypt and learned many of the ancient languages. Several times he came close to gaining permission to work on the most hopeful key, the Rosetta Stone, but was prevented by tumultuous conditions in France. Finally, at thirty years of age, he was given permission and succeeded in the translation where so many had failed.

Seeker of Knowledge returns the romance to the study of ancient history that used to cause children to want to become archeologists. James Rumford's text is deceptively simple, but perfectly suited to convey the wonder and determination of Champollion and the mystery of the writing he deciphered. His pen and watercolor illustrations are clear and inviting, but the real delight are the hieroglyphics sprinkled within the text like a rebus. Like young Champollion, children will be fascinated with these little pictures whose meanings are made clear in the text and sidebars. With the return to classical sequences of study, one problem has been the dearth of attractive, yet informative resources for the younger elementary grades. *Seeker of Knowledge* is both with the added bonus of a literary style and a tone that conveys a love of the subject.

Pamela A. Todd, Librarian/English Teacher, Chalcedon Christian School, Cumming, Georgia

500's—Natural Sciences & Mathematics

Nature for fun projects, by Sally Hewitt. LCCN 00043228. Brookfield, Ct.: Copper Beach Books, 2000. PAP, 0761308334, \$14.95.

508. Nature study; Natural history--Experiments; Experiments. 160 p.

Large print, bright colorful illustrations, and photographs will encourage both adults and children to try Sally Hewitt's *Nature for Fun Projects*. Divided into six sections, the book contains interesting projects that will teach young readers more about the world they live in. Beginning with the weather, Hewitt goes on to cover plants and wildlife living in rivers, ponds, and seashore, the backyard, life cycles, woods and meadows, and our changing seasons. In the weather section Hewitt describes how to make an easy barometer using a balloon stretched over the top of a jar. Some of the river and seashore projects would require access to the appropriate natural area, but other projects in the section could be done anywhere. In the woods and meadows section Hewitt gives clear directions for making leaf rubbings and a sketchbook of flower pictures. If you don't have access to a meadow many of these projects could be done in a yard or park.

Clear, basic directions accompany the projects. Special signs tell the reader when an adult is needed. Yellow warning signs lets you know when special care must be taken. For example, never look straight at the sun and never collect shells with live creatures inside. The glossary at the back of the book contains additional information on some of the words used in the

book. There is also a good index. The photography of Roger Vlitos and illustrations by Tony Kenyon, Stuart Squires, and Mike Atkinson are combined to produce a delightful book with great visual appeal. This would make a good one or two year natural science program for schools or homeschool moms. It would also be a good book for parents to take on vacation or use on those days when the children can't find anything to do

Barbara Bryden, Freelance Writer, Olympia, Washington

ABC nature riddles, by Susan Joyce; illustrations by Doug DuBosque. LCCN 99021343. Columbus, N.C.: Peel Productions, 2000. HBB, 0939217538, \$13.95.

508. Riddles; Nature; Alphabet. unip.

A book for children, but don't be surprised if adults linger! The twenty-six alphabet based riddles provide mystery and puzzles to solve. Each double-page layout includes DuBosque's clever illustrations that melt into Joyce's text. Joyce's earlier *Alphabet Riddles* (1998) gets further attention here as the passages slip into rhyme. The book's pleasing layout and graphics in bright color place this playful approach to learning a sure hit with children. Primary grade teachers can utilize the title both with individual children who need extra attention, and in a group setting in creating phonemic awareness.

The author's experience of childhood dyslexia has created sensitivity and real help to make sense of letters, sounds and words. Children will likely so enjoy the experience that they won't realize they are growing in phonemic awareness. Highly recommended for private purchase and in use in primary classrooms.

Leroy Hommerding, Director, Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Fort Myers, Florida

River of life, by Debbie S. Miller; illustrated by Jon Van Zyle. LCCN 99038350. New York: Clarion Books, Houghton Mifflin, 2000. HBB, 0395967902, \$15.00.

577.6'4. Stream ecology; Ecology; Zoology--Alaska. 32 p.

River of Life is a wonderfully illustrated book that discusses life along an Alaskan river. Illustrated by the official Iditarod Alaskan artist, Jon Van Zyle, the portrayal of the wildlife is so realistic that the reader can actually see the detail of fur, feathers, and fish scales. Each wildlife painting includes a description of the action taking place. The reader will see the humor of a fish splashing water into a moose's face, a brown bear fishing for salmon, and scavengers circling a dead fish that is being eaten by a fox.

Author Debbie S. Miller describes the Alaskan wilderness with poetical words that help the reader to envision the swirling snowflakes of a snowfall, the trickle of a springtime river, the warmth of a summer day watching a dragonfly, and the quietness of an autumn day. Although

many unfamiliar words are used to describe the Alaskan wildlife, a glossary is provided in the back of the book to define those terms. Miller and Van Zyle have collaborated on several award winning books such as: *A Caribou Journey and Disappearing Lake*.

Connie Weaver, Church and Reference Librarian, Newville, Pennsylvania

Oak tree, by Gordon Morrison. LCCN 98055148. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2000. HBB, 0395956447, \$16.00.

583'.46. Oak; Trees; Forest ecology; Ecology; Seasons. 30 p.

The simplicity, yet detail, of this book by Gordon Morrison beg for examination again and again. There's so much here to learn. Watching a large oak tree through a year's seasons, we learn about the tree itself; the animals, birds, and insects who live and feed in it; and the effect of the four season's cycles on them all. Morrison's genius is leaving white space on the page and including brief facts in smaller type on the sides or bottom. His skill with detail in both text and illustration is outstanding, allowing us to feel as if we really watched a red-tailed hawk build a nest in the upper branches, or the cocooning of a cecropia moth as it attaches itself to a twig. Morrison blends science, botany, zoology, and a knack for fictionalized nonfiction that is unparalleled. This book is best given to a child to read on his or her own so he or she can spend time examining each page, and is an excellent choice for libraries.

Kimm Swenson Gollnick, Writer, Speaker & Teacher (Marion Independent Schools), Marion, Iowa

The peregrine's journey : a story of migration, by Madeleine Dunphy; illustrated by Kristin Kest. LCCN 99054840. Brookfield, Ct.: Millbrook Press, 2000. HBB, 0761313632, \$21.90.

598'.918. Peregrine falcon--Fiction; Falcons--Fiction. 32 p.

The Peregrine's Journey by Madeleine Dunphy is the story, in words and pictures, of the highlights of a peregrine falcon's annual trip from Alaska to Argentina. The book begins with a line map marking the route and tying it to page numbers of the text. The migration was tracked from actual scientific data using satellite telemetry. Her route and activities, diet, natural enemies, and her ability to travel using her eyesight and instincts are described in a simple and focused manner. The text closes with a page "About Peregrine Falcons," which discusses the recovery of the bird from near extinction.

The illustrations play a beautiful and significant part in the book. The falcon is shown with incredible detail from many different perspectives and in many flight positions that show off her magnificence. The landscapes are accurately portrayed in strong colors and soft lines, with the exception of the boxy skyscrapers in Seattle. Many contrasts are used: realistic and soft, dark and light, grand and small, for example. The reader might well wish to view

the flight of this bird from a high vantage point in Central America where she traveled with thousands of other birds.

Judy Belcher, Teacher, Sylvan Way Christian School, Bremerton, Washington

600's—Technology (Applied Sciences)

Girls think of everything : stories of ingenious inventions by women, by Catherine Thimmesh; illustrated by Melissa Sweet. LCCN 99036270. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2000. HBB, 0395937442, \$16.00.

609.2'273. Women inventors; Inventors; Inventions; Women--Biography. 57 p.

The old saying that "necessity is the mother of invention" certainly applies to *Girls Think of Everything* by Catherine Thimmesh. Throughout history women have been filling needs with new inventions. Unfortunately, during most of these years women got no credit for their inventions. If any woman chose to patent an invention, she would be forced to do so under a man's name. In many instances, a busy woman's invention was simply a means of saving time, as in the invention of the Toll House chocolate chip cookie. Other inventions were the result of a woman witnessing someone else's need, as in the case of the invention of the windshield wiper by Mary Anderson because she felt sorry for a streetcar driver who was struggling to see. Some inventions described are by women in the workplace to help with their jobs, such as paper bags, liquid paper, and the computer compiler. Other women, such as NASA employees Jeanne Lee Crews and Valerie Thomas, have created their inventions as a part of their work. Age is also no barrier for young inventors such as ten-year-old Becky Schroeder, the youngest female to receive a US patent for her glow-in-the-dark paper.

Along with stories of women inventors, *Girls Think of Everything* includes a list of some of women's inventions from 3000 BC to the present. The author has also included information on obtaining patents, contests and organizations which encourage creative young minds, and a bibliography for further reading. Small watercolor portraits of the inventor and bright full-page collages of the invention greatly enhance the book. This book should be widely enjoyed by readers regardless of age or gender, and hopefully will help creative young people to realize that anyone can be an inventor.

Virginia Brown, Library Assistant/Freelance Writer/Former Teacher, Sheridan, Wyoming

John Glenn's return to space, by Gregory Vogt. LCCN 00020768. Brookfield, Ct.: Millbrook Press, 2000. HBB, 0761316140, \$22.90.

629.45'0092. Glenn, John, 1921; Space flights; Space shuttles; Astronautics; Astronauts. 72 p.

What do you get when you cross a persistent, popular man with a need to research aging? You get seventy-seven year old John Glenn aboard

the space shuttle Discovery. The first astronaut to orbit the earth in 1962, Glenn longed to return to space and got his wish in 1998. His mission: to collect data on aging, zero gravity, and the effects on the body. After his first mission, Glenn served as United States Senator and real estate investor, but his passion remained space.

A fitting tribute to one of America's heroes, *John Glenn's Return to Space* by Gregory Vogt engagingly illustrates the life of this legend with color and black and white pictures, about one every three pages. Photos of Earth from orbit, Glenn with President Kennedy and his fellow astronauts are special treasures. Complexity of words and length of chapters make the book appropriate for upper elementary students.

A two-page glossary contains space terminology along with project and spaceship names. Also included is a two-page chronology of Glenn's life from birth in 1921 to the present. For further study, readers will find a list of related books, magazine articles, and websites. Finally, a comprehensive three-page index directs readers to topics within the book.

This chronicle of Glenn's lifelong love affair with the universe will delight and inform older children and adults for years to come.

Anita Goldman Horning, Freelance Writer, Lawrenceville, Georgia

The Kids Can Press jumbo cookbook, written by Judi Gillies and Jennifer Glossop; illustrated by Louise Phillips. Toronto: Kids Can, 2000. PAP, 1550746214, \$14.95.

641.5'123. Cookery. 256 p.

In *The Kids Can Press Jumbo Cookbook*, Canadian authors Judi Gillies and Jennifer Glossop set out to make cooking seem like a simple, easy, and fun thing for kids to do—and they succeed! The book begins with very helpful sections on basic cooking terms and techniques, measuring methods (both metric and imperial), safety tips, and menu planning. It then proceeds to the recipes, which include kid-friendly foods such as French Toast, Grilled Cheese Sandwiches, Chili con Carne, Pizza, and Pretzels, and fun foods like Jelly Aquariums and Toad in a Hole. Some of the recipes, such as Quesadillas, Hummus, and Sushi, are somewhat unusual foods for children, but if a child had a hand in the preparation, he or she might be willing to at least try one or two of them.

The recipes are written clearly enough for a child to be able to read and understand them without much help, and each one includes the utensils and ingredients needed for it and the amount of time it takes to prepare and cook it, as well as the instructions for producing it. The authors also include, in recipe margins, helpful hints and how-to's for things like making a hard-boiled egg and how to tell if chicken is done, as well as "Try This!" tips that let the child cook add his or her own touch to a recipe. Last but not least, Louise Phillips' funny line drawings

demonstrate a few techniques while provoking giggles along the way.

Betty Winslow, *Bowling Green Christian Academy, Bowling Green, Ohio*

700's—The Arts and Recreation

More Christmas ornaments kids can make, by Kathy Ross; illustrated by Sharon Lane Holm. LCCN 00020376. Brookfield, Ct.: Millbrook Press, 2000. HBB, 0761317554, \$23.90.

745.594'12. Christmas tree ornaments; Handicraft. 64 p.

Don't throw away those old neckties, marker caps, buttons, or plastic Easter eggs. In her book, *More Christmas Ornaments Kids Can Make*, Kathy Ross tells how to turn everyday materials into Christmas ornaments. Children trace their hands and feet and add sequins and pompoms to create a reindeer, string together a pasta candy cane, and twist pipe cleaners into a pine bough. There are twenty-nine project ideas to chose from, with a variety of Christmas themes.

Each activity has a materials list and easy to follow, step-by-step instructions. Illustrator Sharon Lane Holm provides simple, colored drawings which clearly show the phases of each project. Crafts are made from common objects that are found around the house, or inexpensive to purchase. A fine resource for parents and teachers, most activities are explained simply enough for older elementary children to do on their own.

Karen Brehmer, *Teacher, Sylvan Way Christian School, Bremerton, Washington*

The story of the incredible orchestra, by Bruce Koscielniak. LCCN 98043933. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2000. HBB, 0395960525, \$15.00.

784.2. Orchestra; Musical instruments. unip.

The Story of the Incredible Orchestra is a delightful way to introduce children to the history of the orchestra and to the instruments that together create such a wonderful sound. Written and illustrated by Bruce, a musician who has played the violin and jazz guitar for years, the book can be enjoyed by both the casual reader as well as the music lover. The double-page spreads begin with a focus on a particular period of music and are followed by studies on the individual instruments introduced during that period, for example, violins during the Baroque Period and clarinets during the Romantic Period. The text itself is engaging and well-placed questions help focus attention on important points.

Colorful illustrations spill across the pages, bringing the text to life and engaging the reader in a deeper understanding of what is being discussed. Side-notes and smaller diagrams explain the text further and give specific definitions and notes of interest. The end pages depict and name by group all the instruments that are to be found in a symphony orchestra.

Koscielniak encourages readers to make orchestral music a part of their lives, and his book may well inspire a budding young musician to pick an instrument and join in.

Lillian Heytvelt, *Librarian, Pomeroy, Washington*

Kids and grandparents : an activity book, written by Ann Love & Jane Drake; illustrated by Heather Collins. Toronto: Kids Can, 1999. HBB, 1550747843, \$17.95.

790.1'922. Amusements; Grandparent and child. 160 p.

What can children and grandparents do together, to build relationships and have fun? *Kids and Grandparents* offers over ninety suggestions. One will find tips for organizing family photographs and genealogies, rules for traditional games and activities, instructions for craft projects, and a variety of recipe ideas.

Authors Ann Love and Jane Drake provide easy to follow, step-by-step instructions for each activity. Softly shaded pencil sketched illustrations by Heather Collins give the book an old fashioned feel. Written for children to share with grandparents, this book would be good for grandparents themselves to have on hand for meaningful project ideas. Some pages have additional side paragraphs, providing more information about the activity or promoting further opportunities to enjoy the project theme. Activities appeal to children and adults of all ages, making it a fine choice for all around family fun.

Karen Brehmer, *Teacher, Sylvan Way Christian School, Bremerton, Washington*

Let's play : traditional games of childhood, illustrated by Dusan Petricic; written by Camilla Gryski. Toronto: Kids Can, 1999. PAP, 1550748173, \$6.95.

796.1. Games. 48 p.

Have you forgotten how to shoot marbles? Play snake or airplane hopscotch? Puss in the corner? *Let's Play: Traditional Games of Childhood*, an oversized paperback book by Camilla Gryski, offers children of all ages an easy to read collection of old-fashioned games, some dating back centuries to the Greeks and Romans. Within fourteen categories of games are fascinating historical facts, variations of each game, and directions for playing all of them successfully.

Large print and humorous watercolor and pen and ink illustrations by Dusan Petricic guarantee readers' amusement with pictures of children playing ball games, counting out, tag, hide-and-seek, hunt the thimble, and leapfrog. Detailed pictures appear everywhere, some as full or two page spreads. Close-up photos give special instructions and hand positions in finger games. Gryski hides charming little Pssst! messages in the text.

Who would guess that jumping rope was first popular with boys? That people believed jumping in the springtime would make crops

grow high? Or that they clapped the rhyme, Peas Porridge Hot, to warm their hands on cold winter mornings? Children will giggle with delight at Gryski's rich assortment of engaging facts and capricious playmates.

Rhonda Marie Lackey, *Writer/Substitute Teacher/Former Librarian, Tukwila, Washington*

800's—Literature & Rhetoric

Fly with poetry : an ABC of poetry, written and illustrated by Avis Harley. LCCN 99063733. Honesdale, Pa.: Wordsong, Boys Mills, 1000. PAP, 1563977982, \$13.95.

811. Children's poetry. 48 p.

Want to expose children to a variety of poetic forms and techniques? Like to savor the playfulness of poems and let children interact with the ideas? *Fly With Poetry* lets children discover the possibilities that a poem offers, and is sure to delight both parents and teachers.

Each poem is full of carefully made choices, which begin with the poem and continue with the reader. The Table of Contents offers thirty-three poetic forms, e.g., blank verse, haiku, limerick, picture poem, sonnet, uta, and zoophabet. Each form offers one actual poem on a page and the poem is laid out in an attractive manner with a full color illustration. I learned a lot as I went through the various poems, and much of it with little effort. Teachers would enrich the lives of children by making Harley's title available. This is a must title for children's collections.

Harley lives in Canada. This book grew out of her life-long interest in experimenting with words, rhythms, patterns, and ideas.

Leroy Hommerding, *Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Fort Myers Beach, Florida*

Off to the sweet shores of Africa and other talking drum rhymes, by Uzoamaka Chinyelu Unobagha; illustrated by Julia Cairns. LCCN 00008933. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2000. HBB, 0811823784, \$16.95.

811'.6. Children's poetry--American; American poetry; Africa--Poetry. unip.

Poetry can be a joy to share with children and adults alike when it is truly written to be read aloud. Uzo Unobagha has provided the reader with a book of poems written to reflect the variety and rhythm of the African continent. The poems are as varied as the peoples of Africa and beat with the rhythm of an African drum. The names, objects, and seasons of Africa populate each poem, creating a learning moment as well as a pleasurable read. *Off to the Sweet Shores of Africa and Other Talking Drum Rhymes* provides the reader first hand experience with the diversity that the author, a native of Nigeria, conveys with the different poems in this volume.

The illustrations are colorful watercolors. An excellent author's note provides further background and a glossary helps with unfamiliar

terms. This book could be used as an introduction to Africa as well as for the beauty of the poetry.

Barbara Wall, School Library System Director, Orange-Ulster BOCES, Monroe, New York

William Shakespeare, edited by David Scott Kastan & Marina Kastan; illustrated by Glen Harrington. (Poetry for young people.) LCCN 00028489. New York: Sterling, 2000. HBB, 0806943440, \$14.95.

831'.3. Children's poetry, English; English poetry. 48 p.

William Shakespeare introduces to children Shakespeare's poetry through a sampling of his sonnets and excerpts from his plays. Twenty-seven samples are presented and include such favorites as Hamlet's soliloquy, the Macbeth witches' "Double, double, toil and trouble" speech, and the popular "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day" sonnet (Sonnet 18). Each sample or sonnet is preceded by a brief introduction and the title, act, scene, and lines, if applicable, and is followed by a short glossary of the more difficult words. Each page contains an illustration depicting either the scene or the topic.

Edited by David Scott and Marina Kastan, *William Shakespeare* is a useful tool for introducing Shakespeare to children. The introduction familiarizes readers with Shakespeare's life and accomplishments. It also explains in detail why Shakespeare is regarded as the greatest playwright of all time. The brief introductions which precede the samples set them up and explain their main ideas. Both are helpful for children trying to grasp Shakespeare's world and words. Glenn Harrington's color illustrations are beautiful and bring to life the various scenes. *William Shakespeare* is part of the Poetry for Young People series which includes, favorite poets such as Frost, Dickinson, and Whitman. An index is included.

Kerri Cunningham, Librarian, Camano Island, Washington

900's—Geography, History, & Biography

Beyond the sea of ice : the voyages of Henry Hudson, by Joan Elizabeth Goodman; illustrated by Fernando Rangel; with maps by Bette Duke. LCCN 99028782. New York: Mikaya Press, Firefly, 1999. HBB, 0965049388, \$19.95.

910'.92. Hudson, Henry, d.1611; Explorers; America--Discovery and exploration--English. 48 p. Middle school (Elementary).

Beyond the Sea of Ice is an historical account of the four voyages of Henry Hudson and his crews. There is not much biographical information available about Hudson's early years before his voyages of discovery. Historians do have information from journals of crewmembers and Henry Hudson himself. There are also government records from 17th century Holland and England, the two entities for whom Henry Hudson sailed searching for

the passage to the Orient that sailors, mapmakers, and governments believed existed. This scant information has been woven into a riveting account of exploration.

Joan Elizabeth Goodman has compiled an historic and accurate record of one of our more famous early explorers. Henry Hudson is portrayed as a complete person with a realistic look at his skill at leadership or in many cases his lack of strong leadership. Hudson's last voyage ended in a mutiny with Henry, his son, and seven other crewmembers put into a skiff and left to fend for themselves on the open seas. These men never returned to England. Of particular interest is Goodman's description of the winter spent in the Arctic by Henry Hudson, his ship the *Discovery*, and the crew on the fourth voyage. Excerpts of journals written by crewmembers are included on several pages.

Illustrator Fernando Rangel has captured the illusive quality of the search for the Northwest passage. Rangel and Goodman have included a number of maps and charts as well as beautiful full color paintings. There is an index and author's note, both of which assist the reader in using this work as a reference tool.

Barbara Wall, School Library System Director, Orange-Ulster BOCES, Monroe, New York

Yukon River : an adventure to the gold fields of the Klondike, written and photographed by Peter Lourie. LCCN 91077600. Honesdale, Pa.: Boyds Mills, 2000. PAP, 1563978784, \$9.95.

917.98'6. Canoes and canoeing--Yukon river (Yukon and Alaska); Yukon River (Yukon and Alaska)--Description and travel; Yukon River Valley (Yukon and Alaska)--Description and travel; Yukon River Valley (Yukon and Alaska)--Gold discoveries. 47 p.

Yukon River takes the reader on a beautifully written and illustrated trip down the Yukon River from Whitehorse, the capital of the Yukon Territory up near the Arctic Circle, to Dawson, where the Klondike River flows into the Yukon. This book combines past and present beautifully as the author and his friend Ernie canoe 460 miles down river. The author skillfully blends factual information about the gold rush with the narrative of the present day trip down river. The combination of archival and modern photography also highlights the experience. *Yukon River* enables the reader to experience the beauty and harshness of this land as well as the excitement and hardships of the Klondike gold rush.

Yukon River is a book, which must be experienced as well as read. It provides an excellent introduction to the Yukon and to the Klondike gold rush. While it does not provide a great amount of information on either topic, it is a wonderful teaser, which leaves one wanting to learn more concerning this fascinating area and its history. Both children and adults should thoroughly enjoy this book.

Virginia Brown, Library Assistant/Freelance Writer/Former Teacher, Sheridan, Wyoming

Through my eyes : the autobiography of Ruby Bridges, by Ruby Bridges. LCCN 98049242. New York: Scholastic, 1999. HBB, 0590189239, \$16.95.

921 (379.2'63'092). Bridges, Ruby; Afro-Americans--Biography; School integration--Louisiana--New Orleans; New Orleans (La.)--Race relations. 64 p.

On November 14, 1960, Ruby Bridges, a six-year old black girl surrounded by federal marshals, walked through the segregationists of New Orleans and into William Frantz, an all-white elementary school. The next day Ruby walked through the angry crowd again and into a now-empty school. Because of her attendance at William Frantz, almost all of the white children stopped attending the school and for the remainder of the school year Ruby was to be the only student in the classroom of her beloved teacher, Mrs. Barbara Henry.

Through My Eyes by Ruby Bridges tells the story of the historic moment in September of 1960 when Ruby Bridges and three other students integrated the schools of Louisiana. It continues on to tell of Ruby's strange first grade school year where she was driven to school by federal marshals and was taunted daily by the angry segregationists who gathered outside the school. Ms. Bridges also discusses many of the events that happened to her because of her integration. The prejudice and harassment she received are discussed as well as being mentioned in John Steinbeck's *Travels with Charley*, receiving a letter from Eleanor Roosevelt, and being featured in a painting by Norman Rockwell.

While Ms. Bridges tells her own story, she also adds thoughts and quotations from writers and adults who observed her during her first grade year. Also included are many photographs which do an impressive job of recreating Ruby's historic year, and an update of Ruby's life today. *Through My Eyes* carefully and impressively explains an important period of American history and would be a wonderful addition to any collection.

Kerri Cunningham, Librarian, Camano Island, Washington

Africa is not a country, by Margy Burns Knight, Mark Melnicove; illustrated by Anne Sibley O'Brien. LCCN 00022205. Brookfield, Ct.: Millbrook Press, 2000. HBB, 0761312668, \$24.90.

960. Africa--Civilization; Africa--Social life and customs. 39 p.

Children at play, at school, or at home are the focus of stories set in their natural setting in *Africa Is Not a Country*. Children come to appreciate the cultural, ethnic, environmental, and social diversity of the fifty-three countries that make up the African continent. The colorful illustrations are inviting and lively. The alphabetical listing of the countries at the end of the book with capital city, population, how to pronounce the name of the country, national flag, currency, and unique facts about each makes it easy to highlight the variety.

The front inside of the cover pictures a procession of children carrying the flags of the nations. The back inside of the cover has the procession in reverse, this time with names of countries on the flags included.

Parents reading this with children will surely grow in their own understanding while children are treated to a subject treated with decorum. Children in school will gain a valuable insight into this unique continent. Recommended for wide usage.

Leroy Hommerding, Director, Fort Myers Beach P.L. District, Fort Myers, Florida

***The wigwam and the longhouse*, by Charlotte and David Yue. LCCN 98028971. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2000. HBB, 0395841690, \$15.00.**

973'.04973. Woodland Indians; Indians of North America--Northeastern States. 118 p.

This informative book reads like a novel with its descriptive details: "rising columns of smoke from campfires marked the villages." *The Wigwam and the Longhouse* describes the lives of the Woodlands tribes before the coming of the white man. The first chapter covers the communities they lived in and how tribes got their names, types of houses—wigwam and longhouse—and organization of tribes into several confederacies. Later chapters focus on travel and clashes with white settlers. The book concludes with a brief chapter about Woodlands people and land today.

Creative and appealing illustrations break up each chapter, as do subtitles. A lengthy index and a thorough bibliography are also included with titles most appealing to younger readers marked for quick reference.

The Wigwam and the Longhouse provides a descriptive and appealing history of daily life among people of the Woodlands tribes. The authors Charlotte and David Yue show respect for this vanished way of life and instill the sense of importance for remembering the customs and culture of all Native Americans. This book is sure to be as well-liked by young readers as their book *The Pueblo* (1986).

Lisa A. Wroble, Library Aide/Freelancer Writer, Plymouth, Michigan

***Sybil's night ride*, written and illustrated by Karen B. Winnick. LCCN 99062643. Honesdale, Pa.: Boyds Mills, 2000. HBB, 1563976978, \$15.95.**

973.3'33. Ludington, Sybil, b. 1761; Danbury (Conn.)--History--Burning by the British, 1777; United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783--Biography. unsp.

It's April, 1777 and sixteen year old Sybil's father, Colonel Ludington, has just returned home from securing supplies for the American militia. A young man interrupts the gathered family with an urgent message: the British troops are burning supplies in nearby Danbury. The man and his horse are too exhausted to continue on but someone must arouse the militia. Colonel Ludington cannot go because

he must remain to organize the men as they come in. Sybil quickly volunteers to go on her horse Star. Her mother and father fear for her safety but see no alternative. Sybil's father gives her instructions and off she gallops through the rainy and windy night. Riding through the darkness she is scared by many noises, but she is brave and rides on. One by one she finds the right doors and rouses the patriots. She tries to ride quietly past a loyalist farmer's barn and is nearly caught! Sybil rides all through the night. At daybreak she has accomplished her task but now she must ride home. As she approaches her house the gathered troops cheer for her and later General Washington visits her to thank her.

Sybil's Night Ride is the recounting of one girl's incredible bravery and endurance as she rides forty miles in one night to muster the militia. Karen B. Winnick's account of this historical footnote has a nice pace and is easy to read. Her illustrations are paintings on canvas and give the book a colonial era look. A good volume to supplement an interest in the Revolutionary War and for demonstrating what the bravery of one person can accomplish.

Teresa O'Donley, Library Media Specialist, Baymonte Christian School, Scotts Valley, California

***Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address : four score and more*, by Barbara Silberdick Feinberg. LCCN 00027660. Brookfield, Ct.: Twenty-First Century Books, Millbrook, 2000. HBB, 0761316108, \$24.40.**

973.7'092. Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865--Gettysburg address; Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865. 79 p.

On November 19, 1863, Lincoln delivered his immortal Gettysburg Address, and though he expressed the idea that "the world will little note nor long remember what we say here," his brief remarks have stood the test of time. *Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address* is dedicated to expanding the young reader's knowledge not only of how and why Lincoln wrote his speech but also of the events that led up to the day, including a brief description of the battle and of the decision to establish a memorial cemetery at the site. There is also a section relating some of the facts of Lincoln's life and what led him to say what he did. Another chapter describes how the speech was received at the time and since.

Barbara Silberdick Feinberg has done a fine job of presenting her material in a fashion that flows easily for younger readers, while at the same time adding interesting details for readers of all ages. This nicely indexed volume also has some wonderful photos and illustrations that bring the story much more to life. She has included not only her sources but has also listed other materials, including websites, for the reader who would like to learn more. A wonderful addition to a social studies program covering the Civil War or for the interested student.

Teresa O'Donley, Library Media Specialist, Baymonte Christian School, Scotts Valley, California

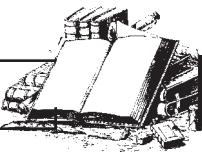
***Billy Yank and Johnny Reb : soldiering in the Civil War*, by Susan Provost Beller. LCCN 99462169. Brookfield, Ct.: Twenty-First Century Books, Millbrook, 2000. HBB, 0761318690, \$26.90.**

973.7'42. United States. Army--History--Civil War, 1861-1865; Confederate States of America. Army--History; Soldiers--United States--History--19th century; Soldiers--Confederate States of America; United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865. 96 p. (Middle school).

The reasons for resorting to war and the meaning of the events that occur during it are often a matter of perspective. Almost one hundred and fifty years in our past, the great war of 1861-1864 still challenges our understanding, adult and child alike, of what America was and is to be. Although the words of politicians and generals are very important in understanding past wars, children want to know what it was like, and that means war from the soldier's viewpoint. Susan Provost Beller's *Billy Yank and Johnny Reb*, real soldiers Theodore Garrish and Carlton McCarthy, tell their story through quotes on their views of the major events in a soldier's life from the day he signs up to fight, through training, deployment, engagement, the uncertainty of hospital, and life after 1864.

Billy Yank and Johnny Reb joins the parade of many books looking at soldiering during the Civil War but with significant differences. First, it is squarely aimed at the upper elementary, middle school reader with the intent of providing solid information in a readable and attractive manner that does not "talk down" to the reader. The balance between the author's presentation of facts and the pertinent excerpts from soldiers' letters is well maintained, keeping the narrative interesting and personal. Another refreshing difference is the respect with which Beller treats the Confederate side of the story, eschewing the dangerously inaccurate simplification of the causes of the war that is so widespread, especially in children's books. Neither is the war romanticized. Every page spread includes black and white period photographs or reproductions of period documents to illustrate the subject of the chapter and the devastation of war. *Billy Yank and Johnny Reb* ends with a map of the major battles and cities involved in the war, a chronology of events, a chapter by chapter list of the resources the author consulted, and a short list of books, CD-Roms, and internet sites for further study. Beller has gathered together a book that is well able to provide for those students looking for resources for reports as well as those who are fascinated with the war itself.

Pamela A. Todd, Librarian/English Teacher, Chalcedon Christian School, Cumming, Georgia



***The caper*, by Nancy Rue. (Christian heritage series. The Chicago years; 5.) LCCN 99056189. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2000. PAP, 1561798371, \$5.99.**

F. Brothers and sisters--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Evangelists--Fiction; Criminals--Fiction; Cape Cod (Mass.)--Fiction. 188 p.

Rudy Hutchinson, along with his twin sister Hildy Helen and adopted brother Little Al, is transplanted from Capone's Chicago to the beach life at Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Their Aunt Gussie has been left in charge of them while their widowed father returns to Chicago to prosecute criminals as Assistant District Attorney. Of course, their dad has an ulterior motive—to keep his children safe from the mob. The children are instructed to stay out of trouble, and take care of the Aunt.

Since he's the oldest boy, Rudy has the unwanted task of being in charge. He would rather just have fun, but, since his Aunt's heart condition is of prime importance, everything he and his siblings do must not create any stress. That becomes difficult when Rudy, Hildy Helen, and Little Al help a drowning man out of a pond. An old sea chest finds it's way into their hands, and the father of the young girl next door becomes suspiciously involved. To top things off, Rudy's actor uncle Jefferson comes for a visit and accompanies his sister and the children to a New England Revival. Evangelist Clancy Faith gives a soul tugging sermon and Uncle Jefferson decides to give his heart to Jesus. The problem is that Rudy doesn't believe Jefferson's conversion is real and doubts not only his uncle, but Clancy Faith too. Aunt Gussie's heart is stronger than expected, and it's a good thing. The girl's father turns out to be a drug dealer and before everything is over, Rudy, Little Al, and Uncle Jefferson each risk their lives to solve the mystery.

The Caper, by Nancy Rue is a bit of Chicago history woven into a fictional story. The characters are well developed and the conversion of Uncle Jefferson helps Rudy with his own relationship with Jesus. Ms. Rue has clearly done her research of what revivals were like in 1920's New England, and you can almost taste the salt in the air as she gives detail to Cape Cod. This is a good read, and would be good in any library.

Debby Willett, Freelance Writer, Canyon, Texas

***Captives in the wilderness*, by Kathryn Dahlstrom. (Good News Club series; 3.) Warrenton, Mo.: CEF Press, 1996. PAP, 1559768282, \$4.99.**

F. Detective and Mystery and detective stories; Drug traffic--Fiction. 196 p.

In this third installment in the Good News Club series, Carlos, Mashell, Anna, and Felipe are having a fantastic time on the group trip to Yosemite, but they are concerned about Bronce, who seems overly selfish with his boom box. Carlos and Felipe trail him one night and discover that he is meeting with a stranger.

The next night they recruit the girls and have just discovered that it is a cocaine drop, when the stranger takes them hostage. Carlos gets away and goes off through the trees to find help. He is lost, so he prays and remembers that he should find and follow water, but he forgets not to drink. Meanwhile, the stranger drives the rest deeper into the forest where he abandons them. They are trying to trust God when a forest ranger finds them and takes them back. At the same time, the camp leaders find a very ill Carlos.

As Carlos recuperates, the rest of the camp goes on a day trip with Mr. South, the ranger who rescued the kidnapped kids. Mashell sees that he has the same weird scar on his arm that their abductor had and realizes that they are same man. She cannot get the adults to fully trust her but on a visit to answer questions, Carlos notices that Mr. South has Bronce's boom box and realizes that the proof is probably still hidden in it. Can he get to it before the drug smuggler catches on?

Kathryn Dahlstrom has succeeded once again in *Captives in the Wilderness* in adding a note of realism while telling a quickly paced, involved story that will appeal to most children. The kids learn that they can rely on God even in the scariest of circumstances and that He is always faithful.

Teresa O'Donley, Library Media Specialist, Baymonte Christian School, Scotts Valley, California

***A coal miner's bride : the diary of Anetka Kaminska*, by Susan Campbell Bartoletti. (Dear America.) LCCN 99029864. New York: Scholastic, 2000. HBB, 0439053862, \$10.95.**

F. Immigrants--Fiction; Polish Americans--Fiction; Coal miners--Fiction; Diaries--Fiction. 219 p.

A Coal Miner's Bride is the story of a young Polish girl who travels to America at age thirteen to become the wife of a coal miner. She is angry with her father, because he has given her to a stranger in exchange for steamship tickets to America for all his children. Her anger increases when she arrives in America and discovers that the man is also a widower with three small children. But she has no choice but to follow her father's wishes.

Anetka's days are filled with cooking, cleaning, and taking care of three little girls. She is used

to hard work, but is discouraged because her new husband criticizes her constantly, calling her a "lazy wife." To make things worse he often talks of his love for his dead wife. Despite this, Anetka waits in dread every time the "Black Maria" comes by. Coal mining is a very hazardous job, where many of the men die in accidents. The Black Maria is a wagon that brings the dead workers home to their families. It is seen often among the company huts where the Polish immigrants live.

Susan Campbell Bartoletti does an excellent job of describing the horrible conditions that coal miners and their families had to deal with during the late nineteenth century. Immigrants, especially, were very poorly treated by the mining companies. The historical account of the first immigrant strike in Pennsylvania, and the violence that followed, is educational and inspiring. Middle school readers will hopefully feel very thankful when they read of the hardships Anetka endured. The things we take for granted (like running water) were unheard of in those times. Anetka's strength and courage as she faced every new trial is an encouraging example of how we can face our own trials today. This is a book anyone over age twelve will enjoy.

Robyn Wyatt, Freelance Writer, Port Orchard, Washington

★

***Color me dark : the diary of Nellie Lee Love, the great migration North*, by Patricia C. McKissack. (Dear America.) LCCN 99016459. New York: Scholastic, 2000. HBB, 0590511599, \$10.95.**

F. Afro-Americans--Fiction; Family life--Fiction; Prejudices--Fiction; Sisters--Fiction; Diaries--Fiction; Tennessee--Fiction. 218 p.

Eleven-year-old Nellie Lee Love journals the events happening in and around her family during their migration from Tennessee to Chicago in 1919. She writes of the KKK killing her uncle, which becomes the motivation to move. When Nellie, her sister, and their parents get to Chicago, instead of finding the "land of opportunity," they find themselves a part of a constant stream of immigrants from the South. Mass movements of blacks and poor whites to Chicago and other big cities result in race riots that shed vast amounts of precious human blood. Though the victorious return from Europe, after WWI, would seem to be a celebration, the reception for black men, including her brother, is one of beatings and killings to prevent any dreams of equality with whites. The only way to success seems to be to look as white as possible, even if it means bleached skin and straightened hair. Nellie

points out the prejudices, even among the black community, that produce acceptance of light skinned and rejection of dark skinned African Americans. Though light skinned, she proudly rebels against this type of thinking, stating "Color me dark!"

Color Me Dark by Patricia C. McKissack echoes a short story by Jamaica Kincaid called "Girl" about a little Jamaican girl listening to the voices in her head (i.e. mother, culture, society). They repeatedly tell her she must never rise above herself, because she was born to work hard, satisfy others, and die. Not to aspire or dream. McKissack has an amazing gift of bringing history to life so clearly and with such natural flow as to take the reader on this adventure with the protagonist. Without preaching or blame she tells of the need for all races to work together in order to obtain true freedom.

Kim Harris, Librarian, Newman Riga Library, Churchville, New York

***The first horse I see*, by Sally M. Keehn. LCCN 98015706. New York: Philomel, Penguin Putnam, 1999. HBB, 0399233512, \$17.99.**

F. Horses--Fiction. 215 p.

Before Willo's mother dies, Willo's father promises to buy her a horse. Now she is shopping for one with Granddad, with whom she lives while her father travels on business. Granddad warns her not to fall for the first horse she sees, but when she sees Tess, an abused ex-racehorse, she know what horse she wants. Her father is not pleased when he returns home, but is leaving again and gives Willo until his return to have the horse gentled.

With the help of her friends Dove and Colin, she begins the process of cleaning up Tess and training her to let Willo first ride her, then jump her. Diana, Colin's mom, who is a trainer, encourages Willo and tells her how to get Tess "on the bit" which means that the horse surrenders total control to Willo.

Willo continues to train her horse as she sorts through her ambivalent feelings about her absent father, who is rarely home and has a drinking problem. She is also developing romantic tendencies toward Colin and he finally kisses her. Meanwhile Colin has his own difficulties with a stepfather that he hates. It all culminates the night before a competition when Willo is going to prove to her father that Tess is worth keeping and when Colin's step-father shoots Jack, his favorite horse.

The First Horse I See by Sally M. Keehn deals honestly with many issues that trouble teens—first love, death of loved ones, stepfamilies, alcohol abuse, and difficulty with parents. It would be good to read this with your child and discuss the areas that are addressed. Also from a Christian perspective, through the character of Dove there is a fair amount of blurring of the differences between religious superstition and

genuine faith that could be confusing for younger readers.

Teresa O'Donley, Library Media Specialist, Baymonte Christian School, Scotts Valley, California

***Follow the dream*, by Beverly Lewis. (Girls only (GO!); 5.) LCCN 00008102. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2000. PAP, 1556616406, \$5.99.**

F. Ice skating--Fiction; Grandmothers--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 117 p. (High school).

Livvy's mother has died and now Livvy must try to reach her dream of an Olympic medal in skating without her biggest supporter, Mom. Not only that, Livvy now has her father's mother living with them and grandmother is a handful. Livvy tries to discuss the problem of grandmother interfering in her training, but her father has no real answer for Livvy. When Livvy discusses it with her friends, they have a Girls Only meeting and pray for Livvy. Eventually Livvy finds out that her grandmother is fulfilling a promise she had made Livvy's mother to make sure Livvy gets a shot at the Olympics. Everyone understands now and Livvy really starts to push for her dream.

This book is number five in a series dealing with issues that Christian girls face in their lives. It is written from a Christian viewpoint and therefore there are many occurrences/references to prayer and Christian behavior. The characters are not well developed and the dialogue is simplistic, as is the plot. However, a middle school girl or young high schooler should enjoy this book. The cover is attractive and the binding is durable. The author, Beverly Lewis has also written the Cul de Sac Kids, Summer Hill Secrets, and the Heritage of Lancaster County series and is well acquainted with what people like to read.

Bianca Elliott, Teacher, Linwood, Kansas

***The forty-acre swindle* : George Washington Carver, by Dave & Neta Jackson; story illustrations by Anne Gavitt. (Trailblazer books.) LCCN 99050773. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2000. PAP, 0764222643, \$5.99.**

F. Farm life--Alabama--Fiction; Afro-Americans--Fiction; Carver, George Washington, 1864?-1943--Fiction; Alabama--Fiction; Penn, William, 1644?-1718--Fiction. 142 p.

***Hostage on the Nighthawk* : Governor William Penn, by Dave & Neta Jackson; story illustrations by Anne Gavitt. (Trailblazer books.) LCCN 99050774. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2000. PAP, 0764222651, \$5.99.**

F. Hostages--Fiction; Pirates--Fiction; Escapes--Fiction; Rescues--Fiction; Penn, William, 1644?-1718--Fiction. 144 p.

Dave and Neta Jackson bring historical figure George Washington Carver to the forefront in *The Forty-Acre Swindle*, with illustrations by Anne Gavitt. Although fourteen year old Jesse Turner and his family are free in Alabama of 1898, it sure seems that things haven't changed much since Grandpappy's day as a slave. The

Turners struggle to hold their land, as each cotton crop yields less and less. Then there is a series of mysterious setbacks that almost totally ruin the them. Fortunately George Washington Carver comes upon the Turners, introducing them to revolutionary farming techniques, saving their farm, and eventually the South, in terms of crop production.

Students will learn through the suspenseful plot how the son of a stolen slave woman became a college educated man who radiates a love for God, and the bounty God created. An inspiring story of how circumstances do not have to prevent goals from being reached.

Hostage on the Nighthawk has adventure galore, as this fast-paced story takes place in the early years of Philadelphia. Captain Kidd and his band of pirates have all but ruined Governor William Penn's "Holy Experiment" of building a city based upon brotherly love. Thirteen year old Theo, along with the rest of the Philadelphia townspeople, hope Governor Penn's return will turn around the foul play. However, Theo, his young sister, and his mother are called back to England to help settle family matters. Their sea voyage is interrupted when they become prisoners of the remnants of Captain Kidd's crew.

Sometimes a stretch in the storytelling, the story still is an exciting read, appreciated by those who especially like tales involving pirates, with story illustrations by Anne Gavitt lending appropriate suspense.

Pam Webb, School Librarian, Sandpoint, Idaho

***Hate fighters*, by Kathryn Dahlstrom. (Good News Club series; 6.) Warrenton, Mo.: CEF Press, 1996. PAP, 1559764929, \$4.99.**

F. Detective and Mystery and detective stories; Arson--Fiction. 168 p.

Volume Six in the Good News Club Series begins with friends Carlos, Felipe, Mashell, and Anna deciding to be welcoming to Judy Choi, who is a visitor to the Good News Club Meetings as well as new to the neighborhood where they live in the Watts area of LA. They notice that many in the neighborhood are not kind to Judy's parents and will not frequent the grocery store they own. The kids get the idea of putting their memory verse, John 15:17, into practice. They form a secret group called Hate Fighters. They decide to secretly leave yellow sticky notes commending people when they are "caught" doing good and blue sticky notes reprimanding people when they are unkind.

Meanwhile, Stan, boyfriend of Miss Lindstrom, the Good News Club leader, offers to pay for Carlos to take an obedience class with his dog Peppy. Peppy is a natural and Carlos sets the goal of training his dog to be a competitor in obedience trial competitions, but he needs a way of earning the entrance fees. His friends are helping him with a car wash at the Choi's store, when a mysterious arsonist sets the building on fire.

Kathryn Dahlstrom continues the adventures of the Good News Kids with this involving narrative that moves swiftly along. Most children will enjoy reading how the neighborhood becomes more accepting of the Choix and how Carlos realizes his "doggy dreams." Hate Fighters does a fine job of emphasizing how even children of different races and backgrounds can not only love and support each other, but encourage others to do so as well. The story is a wonderful illustration of how Jesus' commandment to love one another can be lived out in practical ways even by the young.

Teresa O'Donley, Library Media Specialist, Baymonte Christian School, Scotts Valley, California

***If wishes were horses*, by Natalie Kinsey-Warnock. LCCN 00031426. New York: Dutton Children's Books, Penguin Putnam, 2000. HBB, 0525464484, \$15.99.**

F. Sisters--Fiction; Great-aunts--Fiction; Poliomyelitis--Fiction; Horses--Fiction; Farm life--Vermont--Fiction; Depressions--1929--Fiction. 131 p.

In 1932 twelve year old Lily lives on the Vermont family farm with her parents, grandparents, and her sister Emily who is one year older. Lily believes that she truly hates Emily, who she claims is two-faced and the favorite of the adults. Hearing that grandma's sister, Aunt Nell, is coming home for a visit from India where she has been a missionary since Lily's birth, she plans to ingratiate herself with her aunt so that she can be someone's favorite.

Aunt Nell is carefree and captivating and it seems that she may fulfill Lily's dream of owning a horse. Because she wants to go the circus by herself with Nell, Lily entices Emily to a water-filled quarry and shoves her in. The next morning Emily does not feel well but Lily has a fine time at the circus, especially watching the performer with the diving horse. Upon returning home she is chagrined to find that Emily has been stricken with polio. An iron lung is moved in and life changes forever.

As Emily slowly fades away, Lily is caught up in training her new horse to dive. Eventually she realizes that her parents are struggling emotionally and financially and decides to sacrifice what is most precious to herself for the good of the family.

If Wishes Were Horses is a moving book told from Lily's first person point of view. Readers will identify with Lily's ambivalent feelings towards her sibling. Her change in attitude and her care for Emily is touching and well written. Engaging and easy to read for middle school children, but Christian parents will want to discuss the issue of whether or not God answers negative prayers and wishes. Also a possible euthanasia at the conclusion of the story may bring up questions that will need to be talked over.

Teresa O'Donley, Library Media Specialist, Baymonte Christian School, Scotts Valley, California

***Jeanmarie and the FBI*, by Lucille Travis. (Apple Valley mysteries; 1.) LCCN 00057184. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2000. PAP, 0801044715, \$5.99.**

F. World War, 1939-1945--United States--Fiction; Orphanages--Fiction; Spies--Fiction; Black market--Fiction; Mystery and detective stories. 150 p. (Elementary, High school).

***Jeanmarie and the runaways*, by Lucille Travis. (Apple Valley mysteries; 2.) LCCN 00057947. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2000. PAP, 0801044707, \$5.99.**

F. Orphanages--Fiction; Migrant workers--Fiction; Mexicans--Fiction; Runaways--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 144 p. (Elementary, High school).

Jeanmarie's parents are no longer able to care for her, so they admit her to the Apple Valley Orphanage. Now it is night, and the cottage windows are covered with thick black cloth to protect the residents from the German bomber planes. Yet, after bed time, Jeanmarie and her best friend, Pearl, observe two strangers with German accents out in the snow, meeting by flashlight. Jeanmarie and her friends—Pearl, Winnie, Tess, Maria, and Wilfred—are drawn into solving this mystery.

First they discover boxes of frozen chicken are missing from the orphanage's freezer. An adult friend, Luke, gets hit on the back of his head and knocked unconscious. They try to put pieces together and stumble across an occupied cabin at Gould's Camp, a deserted summer camp for children. Things go from bad to worse, and the six friends are bound and gagged and locked up in a cabin—to be dealt with later by the meat thieves. However, the meat thieves have more in mind than just the stolen chicken. Nazi spies have infiltrated the East Coast, and are preparing bombs to sabotage critical areas.

In the second installment, Jeanmarie and her five friends come upon two Mexican children, Juan and Serena, who have escaped from a migrant boss, Don Carlos. The children's parents have died and Juan and Serena have been left in the care of the boss. He has stolen their earnings, and lied to their grandfather about their being alive! Jeanmarie and her friends go through a myriad of schemes to provide food, blankets, coal, and clothing for these two children. Jeanmarie resorts to lies and deceptions in order to do what she thinks is right. In the end, she learns a valuable lesson about honesty and trusting her authorities with her concerns.

Jeanmarie and the FBI and *Jeanmarie and the Runaways* by Lucille Travis are quaint stories of World War II vintage based on the author's own experiences in an orphanage similar to Apple Valley. The stories are full of action and choices put before Jeanmarie and her friends. Ultimately they must decide what direction they should take—the honest, hard way, or the dishonest, easy way. Jeanmarie remembers to pray, asking God for wisdom and protection. In the end, she does the right thing, realizing that deceit is not God's way. This series is an

excellent choice for students nine to sixteen, and are highly recommended for any library.

Debby Willett, Freelance Writer, Canyon, Texas

***The journal of Jasper Jonathan Pierce : a pilgrim boy*, by Ann Rinaldi. (My name is America.) LCCN 99026028. New York: Scholastic, 2000. HBB, 0590510789, \$10.95.**

F. Mayflower (Ship)--Fiction; Pilgrims (New Plymouth Colony)--Fiction; Indentured servants--Fiction; Voyages and travels--Fiction; Diaries--Fiction; Massachusetts--History--New Plymouth, 1620-1691--Fiction. 155 p.

Orphans, Jasper and his brother Tom are going to the New World; however, they become separated in London. Jasper is on the Mayflower, indentured to a printer and Tom remains in London. Jasper writes a diary of the journey so that Tom will know all about the stench of the ship's lower deck, the deplorable food, the deaths, and the bullies. Jasper and the Pilgrims have a tough first winter, but two Indians, Squanto and Samoset, give directions on planting their gardens and which Indian tribes to avoid. *The Journal of Jasper Jonathan Pierce* ends a little over a year after the Pilgrims leave England.

Well known historical author, Ann Rinaldi (*My Heart is on the Ground!*) researched this time period and the effort shows in this diary format book. No romantic view is portrayed; Rinaldi describes the poor living conditions, the deaths, and the terror of facing war-painted Indians. An epilogue tells what happened to Jasper and his brother Tom in their adult years. The historical section includes black and white illustrations depicting the Pilgrim's life, plus information on the actual people who were a part of this book.

Connie Weaver, Church & Reference Librarian, Newville, Pennsylvania

***The journal of Wong Ming-chung : a Chinese miner*, by Laurence Yep. (My name is America.) LCCN 99028405. New York: Scholastic, 2000. HBB, 0590386077, \$10.95.**

F. California--Gold discoveries--Fiction; Gold mines and mining--Fiction; Chinese Americans--Fiction; Uncles--Fiction; Diaries--Fiction. 219 p.

The story begins on October 1, 1851, at Tiger Rock in Southern China. The announcement has come. Uncle, Precious Stone, is going to the Golden Mountain of America. Gold has been found there and many Chinese have crossed the great ocean to become a guest of the Golden Mountain. Wong Ming-Chung has always been looked upon as the "runt." Runt spends his time reading and learning to write. He enjoys his studies, but he is small and weak. His brother, Blessing, however is large and strong. Blessing wants to go with Uncle to America.

There is a famine in China and food is very scarce. Many times supper is weed soup. Then the first letter arrives from America. Uncle has made the trip and has sent money to the family. Everything changes now. The family is now

looked up to as important. Uncle asks Blessing to come to America, but father refuses and sends Runt instead. Runt is sure that his father and mother feel they will not suffer any great loss if he dies, but they cannot bear to lose Blessing. So Wong Ming-Chung sails to America. He manages to survive the trip and is of greater value than he ever imagined because he is the only one who can read and write.

The Journal of Wong Ming-Chung by Laurence Yep is one book in the My Name is America series. These books are written in diary form with dated entries. These books are a fast, easy read. The details included bring history to life through the experiences of young boys.

Yep has brought to life the horrible experience of the ships and the inhumane treatment of the Chinese. You also see the desperation of the Chinese, their willingness to work hard, and their dedication to their family. They would do nothing to disgrace the family name. You can see how many of the advances made in mining equipment and in merchandising came from the Chinese culture. This is a fascinating book with great insight into the Chinese culture of that time.

Marcia Snyder, Librarian, Missoula, Montana



***Miles' song*, by Alice McGill. LCCN 99043157. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2000. HBB, 0395979382, \$15.00.**

F. Slavery--Fiction; Afro-Americans--Fiction; Literacy--Fiction; South Carolina--Fiction. 213 p. (High school).

It's 1851 and twelve year old Miles is the house slave of Gency Tillery, one of the richest men in South Carolina. It's a privileged position and Miles feels fortunate to have it until the master catches him gazing at a book. He is then taken by Bounty, an old slave who is himself a slave-catcher, to the "breaking ground" to become a more obedient slave. His fear and despair is alleviated by the friendship of Elijah, another slave who has been sent there.

Elijah secretly teaches Miles to read and write and how to fool the breakers by acting simple-minded and compliant. As he becomes more literate, Miles comes to understand the value of freedom. Soon he is deemed "broken" and makes ready to return to the plantation. Elijah tells him to get reassigned as a field hand so he will be ready to go with Elijah when he makes a run for the north.

Once again at home, Miles must eventually reveal to Mama Cee, the old woman who has raised him, his plans and convince her to come with him. He must move carefully. One of the slaves is the master's spy and another unknown slave is surreptitiously leaving notes for Miles from Elijah. Who can he trust and of whom should he be wary? When he and Mama Cee do make their dash for freedom, he is surprised at who their secret accomplice is. But is being able

to read and having help enough to make it north?

Alice McGill's inspiring and excellent storytelling causes the reader to identify with Miles' emotional, mental, and spiritual journey from compliant slave to a bold young man who values freedom and literacy and is willing to die in order to obtain them. Well told and a must read for any YA reader.

Teresa O'Donley, Library Media Specialist, Baymonte Christian School, Scotts Valley, California

***Reach for the stars*, by Beverly Lewis. (Girls only (GO!); 4.) LCCN 99006717. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1999. PAP, 0764220616, \$5.99.**

F. Skis and skiing--Fiction; Single-parent family--fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 118 p.

***Better than best*, by Beverly Lewis. (Girls only (GO!); 6.) LCCN 00010395. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2000. PAP, 1556616414, \$5.99.**

F. Gymnastics--Fiction; Competition (Psychology)--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction; Korean Americans--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 120 p.

Miranda Garcia is a twelve year old hopeful Junior Olympic ski contender. She and her single mom live in Alpine Lake, Colorado, where their lives revolve around skiing. Amanda, aka Manda, takes skiing lessons, babysits, and belongs to an exclusive Girls Only club. Exclusive because its four members are committed to excellence in athletics—each member having their own special skill. Her mom, Adelina, is a ski instructor at the Alpine Ski Academy located at the base of Cascade Peak.

So far, life was relatively uneventful for the mother and daughter team; then things came tumbling down. Manda's mom fell and broke her leg, putting her in the hospital for a few weeks. In the interim, Manda takes over her mom's ski classes, which makes Manda a very busy teen. While her mom is in the hospital, Manda eats dinner with the families of her friends, visits with her mom every day, attends school and keeps up with her school work, teaches her mom's classes, and baby-sits, too. In fact, it's the new babysitting job that has gotten her attention. Tarin the Terrible is a precocious five year old who is a child prodigy, and his father is a kind, gentle man, who is also a single parent. Manda is motivated by her desire to have a dad, and seeks to bring her mom and Tarin's dad together.

"Nothing comes between gymnastics and me," thought Jenna Song. "Nothing!" Jenna's focus is to be the best and she is determined that nothing is going to get in her way. She is team captain of her school's All Around gymnastics team, and her short term goal is to be a member of the Junior National Team. Her dad is the pastor of the local Korean church and her mom is her biggest fan, always encouraging her, "If it's not worth doing 110%, it's not worth doing at all." Jenna puts so much of herself into competing, she forgets who she's supposed to be

solid with—her teammates and her friends. Jealousy rears its ugly head when Jenna observes the growth spurt of a teammate and when a new boy appears at practices and the upcoming Sports Weekend Clinic. Her mother's wisdom combined with a sunrise chat with her ballet coach, and Jenna decides to make things right with everyone.

Reach For The Stars and *Better Than Best*, by Beverly Lewis, are quick reads for eight to thirteen year old girls. These are delightful stories about contemporary teenagers, each facing their struggles and finding victory. The characters are well rounded and desire to please God. Ms. Lewis has a talent for creating stories that evoke the reader's interest and understanding, while allowing the characters to retain human emotions. These are excellent books and should find a home in any library.

Debby Willett, Freelance Writer, Canyon, Texas

***Return to Skoki Lake*, by Nikki Tate. (StableMates; 6.) Victoria, B.C.: Sono Nis Press, Orca Book Publishers, 2000. PAP, 155039102X, \$4.95.**

F. Diabetes--Fiction; Horses--Fiction. 192 p.

Jessica Richardson is turning twelve, and has just received a birthday present from her paternal grandmother. For a young girl who lives and breathes horses, this present is perfect. A week's stay at Flannigan's Trail Outfitters in the Rocky Mountains of Alberta, Canada. Jessica's parents are divorced and she lives with her mom; her dad lives in Japan with his second wife and their new baby. Before she leaves for the birthday present extraordinaire, Jessica begins to notice that she is thirstier than normal, having to use the bathroom more, and she doesn't quite have as much energy as before. She hopes it's not a case of the flu trying to get her down.

At home in British Columbia, Jessica helps out at a riding stable so she can have riding lessons. There she rides English style. On the mountain trail she has to ride Western style. It is on the trail that Jessica comes face to face with the cause for her "flu" symptoms. She blacks out while riding her horse for the week and wakes up in a hospital. Jessica has juvenile diabetes. Becoming educated on self-care is now a focus for her and her parents. She is very angry and resentful of the serious condition she now finds herself in, and several times loses her temper at her mother, grandmother, and friends.

Nikki Tate's *Return to Skoki Lake* is the sixth in a series about Jessica. The story is well written and gives excellent detail about the self-care involved for a diabetic. Tate has truly done some thorough research for this story. Any child who has diabetes will appreciate the details and the explanations. The anger and resentfulness of Jessica's character may be representative of an adolescent in her position, but she is disrespectful and rude, without contrition, especially with her mother. This book is an

excellent story of the detail involved in diabetes self-care, and taking care of horses.

Debby Willett, Freelance Writer, Canyon, Texas

Samir and Yonatan, by Daniella Carmi; translated by Yael Lotan. LCCN 99030705. New York: Arthur A. Levine Books, Scholastic, 2000. HBB, 0439135044, \$15.95.

F. Hospital--Fiction; Brothers--Fiction; Grief--Fiction; Palestine--Fiction; Israel--Fiction; War--Fiction. 185 p.

Samir, a Palestinian boy, injures his knee and dreads going to the Israeli hospital because his brother Fadi was killed by Israeli soldiers. He finds himself in a room with four other children who have unique problems. Yonatan reads books about stars and speaks to Samir only in the darkness. Razia hides under her bed, fearing her father's visit. Tzahi jumps on his bed, eats tons of candy, and allows the others to touch his amazing catheter bag. Samir thinks Ludmilla, who pets her stuffed rabbit and refuses to eat, is a princess. Samir develops a fever while waiting for the doctor from America. With surgery postponed, the children get acquainted. Yonatan explains the theory of evolution. Samir remembers that Allah knows everything.

Through their interactions, the children grow in compassion and help each other resolve conflicts. Yonatan keeps his promise to take Samir to Mars, pushing him in a wheelchair through the dark hospital to a room where he runs a computer disc. On "Mars" Samir suddenly understands his brother's death and the meaning of his deep friendship with Yonatan.

Daniella Carmi, an Israeli author whose story is translated by Yael Lotan, masterfully shows life from a child's point of view. Children will enjoy Samir's thoughts and escapades related in first person, present tense. "So maybe I won't end up in Satan's snake pit after all." "I hide under my blanket and try my magic sentences." "Pull down your pants," says the doctor. Catheter-free, Tzahi and Samir escape to the hospital courtyard and gleefully urinate together.

The text is sprinkled with a few vulgar and several profane words. Samir and Yonatan has received honorable mention for the UNESCO prize for Children's Literature in the Service of Tolerance.

Rhonda Marie Lackey, Writer, Former Teacher/Librarian, Tukwila, Washington

The secret of Gabi's dresser, by Kathy Kacer. LCCN 2001339145. Toronto: Second Story Press, Orca Book Publishers, 1999. PAP, 1896764150, \$4.95.

F. Jewish children in the Holocaust--Fiction; Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)--Fiction; Jews--Fiction; Historical fiction. 128 p.

Eight year old Paul, and ten year old Vera are playing hide and seek in their Babichka's big three-story home, when one of them asks if she had ever played hide and seek. For Babichka, the question takes her back to her own childhood. The setting is 1940 Eastern Europe,

and Gabi Kohn lives with her father and mother on a small farm in Czechoslovakia. Life was good, and Gabi had not a care in the world. As Jews, the Kohns were orthodox in their religious practices, observing the sabbath on Friday nights, and not working through the day of rest. Her family was big with lots of aunts, uncles, and cousins.

One day a classmate announces to Gabi that she won't be able to attend school anymore because she is a Jew. People and children who were once kind to her have suddenly turned cruel. One classmate even told her she didn't do well on a test because of her Jewishness. Gabi's life begins to take turns that no one could have predicted. Newspapers begin to give harrowing accounts of the treatment of Jews in neighboring countries, and then her father dies. Gabi and her mother are forced to let the farm go and before long their lives change dramatically. The dresser, a storage for beautiful glasses and bowls, does double duty when the Nazi soldiers come looking for Gabi. Though cramped and stuffy, it is the dresser that saves Gabi's life and allows her a future to enjoy her grandchildren, Paul and Vera.

Kathy Kacer's book, *The Secret of Gabi's Dresser*, is an evocative account of historical times. Ms. Kacer's book is even more important because it is the account from her own mother's childhood. The events from Gabi's youth are a painful reminder of the atrocities committed against an entire group of people simply because of their ethnic and religious beliefs. This book shares those details openly and candidly. Ms. Kacer has written Gabi's story in a way that provoke thought and conversation. An excellent read for families.

Debby Willett, Freelance Writer, Canyon, Texas

★

Shadows beyond the gate, by Beverly Lewis. (Summerhill secrets; 10.) LCCN 99050589. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2000. PAP, 155661876X, \$5.99.

F. Grief--Fiction; Twins--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 136 p. (High school).

Once upon a time, Merry Hanson had a twin. Faithie died of leukemia when she and Merry were young children. Since then, Merry has had a special sensitivity to other twins who have lost their twin sibling. It is because of this sensitivity that Rachel Zook, an Amish friend, asks Merry to help with a baby lamb who lost its twin. The lamb won't eat or drink, and Rachel is afraid it won't survive. Reluctantly, Merry agrees to nurse the lamb, and names her Jingle Bell. In an almost uncanny way, Merry is able to make a connection with the lamb, and Jingle Bell thrives.

Merry then makes a connection that she is not prepared for. This connection is with Rachel's older brother, whom Merry had an child's interest in. The brother is considering engagement to a young Mennonite woman, and

Merry has to sort out her feelings for the brother and the young man, Jonathan Klein, she is making a connection with. Through her struggles she has a revelation and realizes the reality of the scripture that says God will never leave her comfortless. Merry makes her share of mistakes, and then takes responsibility for them and makes them right. She is a good friend to Rachel, and to Jonathan, while helping her mom with the new business. This story is number ten in Beverly Lewis' series, and is engaging, charming, and laced with humor. Her characters are well-written and easy to identify with. The suggested ages are 11 - 14, though I think girls as old as 16 and 17 would enjoy reading the book. Merry is a character most parents would want their daughters to befriend. An excellent story and an excellent choice for any library.

Debby Willett, Freelance Writer, Canyon, Texas

The starplace, by Vicki Grove. LCCN 98040894. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, Penguin Putnam, 1999. HBB, 0399232079, \$17.99.

F. Segregation--Fiction; Prejudices--Fiction; Afro-Americans--Fiction; Oklahoma--Fiction. 214 p.

In 1961, segregation is no longer a law, but in Quiver, Oklahoma, there are the much deeper, stronger cultural laws that govern the townspeople. For Francine Driscoll, this has never been a problem, until she meets Celeste Chisholm, who arrives with her father from St. Louis, Missouri, for rest and research. The Chisholms move into the town's "haunted house," which is revealed as a long time meeting place of the Ku Klux Klan. The spilled blood, associated with the house and its surrounding field, represents a past allowed by townspeople who have, through fear, turned a blind eye to the violent murders of many area black families. Celeste becomes the first black student ever to attend the all white school in Quiver. Though she is obviously wealthy and culturally well-bred, she is greeted with ignorance and prejudice. When she and Francine Driscoll become friends, Celeste slowly gains acceptance with some of her fellow students, but is often reminded that she is predominately considered an interloper in the community. While Celeste's father is researching the history of an ancestor who was once killed there, she and Francine get locked in manacles in a nearby mining cave. These same manacles prove to be the key that unlocks the family's hidden past. The girls' rescue leads to an education for all, before the Chisholms return to their home in St. Louis.

The Starplace by Vicki Grove is a slow mover, but well worth sticking with. Unfortunately the story may not move quickly enough for some of today's young readers. However, due to the author's attention to era related details, this book could work well as a group or class study of sixties historical fiction.

Kim Harris, Librarian, Newman Riga Library, Churchville, New York

Street games, by Kathryn Dahlstrom. (Good News Club series; 4.) Warrenton, Mo.: CEF Press, 1995. PAP, 1559768290, \$4.99.

F. Detective and Mystery and detective stories; Gangs--Fiction. 174 p.

Sent into hiding, by Kathryn Dahlstrom. (Good News Club series; 5.) Warrenton, Mo.: CEF Press, 1996. PAP, 1559768312, \$4.99.

F. Detective and Mystery and detective stories; Witnesses--Fiction. 174 p.

In *Street Games*, Carlos, his sister Anna, and friend Mashell are part of a Christian youth group, who work together to prevent gang violence from overtaking their neighborhood. But when one drive-by shooting takes the life of a friend, and another gets Carlos shot in the leg, revenge seems the only answer. Anna and Mashell discover the shooter's identity and that Carlos' older brothers, Ricardo and Luis, are the next targets. When Luis is found dead, Carlos blames Mashell for keeping the shooter a secret. Mashell runs off crying, more determined than ever to locate and warn Ricardo to leave town. On her way, she is chased by gang members, who trap her on the roof of an apartment building and plot her capture. While Mashell awaits her demise, Ricardo and friends arrive and become involved in another street war. Carlos and the police reach the scene before any deaths occur, stop the shooting, and catch the gang members.

In *Sent into Hiding*, Mashell, Carlos, Anna, little brother Felipe, and friend Bronce are asked to testify against a one of the biggest drug rings in Los Angeles. When all but Mashell are kidnapped by members of the drug ring, she and her family are separated and sent into the witness protection program. Cat and mouse chases ensue as the kids manage to stay, mostly, one step ahead of the crooks. Long desert walks and dangerous ski slopes can't keep these kids from testifying.

Street Games and *Sent into Hiding*, both by Kathryn Dahlstrom, are Good News Club Series books set in Los Angeles, California. Dahlstrom provides a good balance of fun and adventure within a non-denominational Christian setting in both books. Vocabulary and literary quality are age appropriate. Concepts of crime and murder well presented, with enough suspense to develop an interesting story and no overkill on the violence issues.

Kim Harris, Librarian, Newman Riga Library, Churchville, New York

Trapped by an earthquake, by Kathryn Dahlstrom. (Good News Club series; 2.) Warrenton, Mo.: CEF Press, 1996. PAP, 1559768274, \$4.99.

F. Detective and Mystery and detective stories; Earthquakes--Fiction. 213 p.

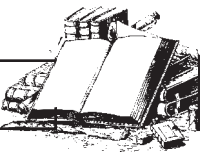
In *Trapped by an Earthquake*, author Kathryn Dahlstrom follows two main characters in their daily lives in California: Mashell, a twelve-year-old African American girl struggling with her

mother's bad choices in men and drugs, and Carlos, a fifth-grade Hispanic boy dealing with a school bully. The story begins with Mashell sneaking out at night to join her cousin Shawnda to tag buildings, bridges, and billboards with spray paint. Mashell fights her conscience, justifying her actions since her mother breaks the law by abusing drugs. The two girls get caught before committing the crime, and Mashell wishes for a father like the security guard who is firm but gentle with them.

Then we meet Carlos and his family preparing for a school day. Later, he and his friend Felipe try to avoid bully Cortez and his gang at school. Both main characters deal with immediate conflicts, and both have longings for a better situation. Both attend a neighborhood Good News Club, a place where they learn about God's love for them and how to pray about their greatest concerns.

For these things, I applaud Dahlstrom. Some readers may find her habit of spelling out each ethnic name or choice of words disruptive to the story's flow (Mashell, "pronounced Muh-SHELL," Felipe, "pronounced Fay-LEEP," loco "crazy, pronounced LOE-koe," etc.), while younger readers may appreciate the help. The event described in the title, being trapped in an earthquake, occurs near the end of the book when Mashell and Shawnda sneak out once more to tag a freeway onramp and they get trapped under it during the earthquake. Their friends at the Good News Club pray for the girls' safety. Meanwhile, Carlos is asked to allow rescue teams to use his dog to sniff out earthquake victims in his neighborhood and he accompanies them, only to discover his nemesis Cortez buried but still alive. Cortez' brutal treatment of Carlos almost causes Carlos to turn away, but the Lord convicts him and he decides to help his enemy. In the end, both the girls and Cortez are rescued; Carlos understands Cortez in a deeper way; and Mashell finally surrenders her will to the Lord. The last page includes a note to the reader with the sinner's prayer and a phone number to find out about Good News Clubs in the area.

Kim Swenson Gollnick, Writer, Speaker & Teacher (Marion Independent Schools), Marion, Iowa



200's—Religion

Maximum friendship : devotions for students, by Jeff and Ramona Tucker. LCCN 98054291. Wheaton, Ill.: Harold Shaw, WaterBrook, 1999. PAP, 0877885834, \$8.99.

241'.6762. Teenagers--Prayer-books and devotions--English; Friendship--Religious aspects--Christianity. 120 p.

Jeff and Ramona Tucker hit the mark with their devotions for students book, *Maximum Friendships*. The authors deal with choosing-and-being-a best friend. Some devotional topics include loyalty, honesty, sibling rivalry, shyness, being "dumped," pretending, insecurity, "going too far," hero worship, and being friends with older people and younger children. It ends with "The Forever Friend," Jesus.

In the first devotional, "Friendship Power," Tina's conservative background and Chris's liberal upbringing make them opposites, though they are friends. The authors take the reader to the Bible to show how unlikely friendships develop--Moses and Aaron, brothers who were raised in different surroundings, and Elijah and Elisha, who were different on social position. Following the Bible study, the authors say, "Evaluate your three closest friends. How are they like you? Different from you?" Finally, they provide an action step, "Thank God today for giving you unique friends and for giving you such a special place in His hands."

Similar to typical devotional books, *Maximum Friendships* has an anecdote, brief Bible story, an application, and a positive "assignment" or action step. It differs in that for eight weeks, the authors present different types of friendships and provide a place where teens can write about their developing relationships.

Maximum Friendships is a thin volume with a bright cover designed by David LaPlaca. Photos by Jamie Marcial and Arthur Tilley depict typical young people talking and playing. Young teens will find it attractive. Parents won't be disappointed in the content.

Dell Smith Klein, Writer, Teacher, Catalina, Arizona

Don't jump to conclusions without a bungee cord : and other wise advice, by Martha Bolton. LCCN 99030481. Ann Arbor, Mich.: Vine Books, Servant Publications, 1999. PAP, 1569550800, \$10.00.

242'.63. Prayerbooks and devotions; Bible. O.T. Proverbs--Meditations. 190 p. (High school).

The combination of wise words and the wise gal humor of Martha Bolton make *Don't Jump to*

Conclusions Without a Bungee Cord no ordinary teen devotional. *Brio* readers will be familiar with Bolton as the magazine's Cafeteria Lady, while others might recognize her as a humorist who has been around long enough to know what funny is all about. This 90-day devotional centers on a pretty heavy book: Proverbs. Yet somehow Bolton adds a playful twist to Solomon's solemn advice with the inclusion of a Bumper Sticker for the Day, along with her quick-to-the-wit lead-in story, plus thoughts to ponder. The devotions are targeted for teens, yet adults will get something out of the reading too. A great gift for graduates, or any young adult who could use a large dose of wisdom served up with a smile.

Pam Webb, School Librarian, Sandpoint, Idaho

Secrets of the best choice, rev. ed., by Lois Walfrid Johnson. (Let's talk about it stories for kids.) LCCN 99006620. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1999. PAP, 155661652X, \$7.99.

248.8'2. Teenagers--Conduct of life; Teenagers--Religious life; Christian life. 159 p.

You're worth more than you think! rev. ed., by Lois Walfrid Johnson. (Let's talk about it stories for kids.) LCCN 99006621. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1999. PAP, 1556616511, \$7.99.

248.8'2. Children--Religious life; Self-esteem--Religious aspects--Christianity. 175 p.

This series deals with contemporary short stories for pre-teens and teens on the subjects of making the best choices and self esteem. Each book contains twenty-nine short stories which are appropriate for this age level. *Secrets of the Best Choice* portrays stories such as: not obeying parent's rules, owning up to your mistakes, surfing the internet safely, underage drinking, and getting revenge. *You're Worth More Than You Think* contains stories such as: being a Christian in a non-Christian group, dealing with a physical disability, being adopted, and liking yourself. After each short story are discussion questions which have no right or wrong answer. The final element of each story is a Bible verse and a short prayer to help the student with the subject matter.

The cover of each book has on the cover a Gold Medallion Book Award symbol. Lois Walfrid Johnson (Riverboat Adventure series) encourages the reader to use the Bible in the daily life choices that students will come across. The thought provoking questions invite students to discuss what they would have done in the

situation or what the character could have done better.

Both books could be used for a book discussion group or a Sunday School class. Each story invites the reader to make a choice and hopefully will encourage students to read more of the Bible than just the recommended verses. This is an innovative idea that is very much needed for this age group who must face a scary and somewhat unkind world.

Connie Weaver, Church & Reference Librarian, Newville, Pennsylvania

Wise up : stand clear of the unsmartness of sin, by Kevin Johnson. (Early teen discipleship.) LCCN 00010397. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2000. PAP, 1556616376, \$7.99.

248.8'3. Sin--Biblical teaching; Christian teenagers--Religious life; Bible--Textbooks; Christian life; Conduct of life; Bible--Study. 122 p.

Wise Up is a part of the Early Teen Discipleship series, written by Kevin Johnson. The text is divided into parts, The Way of the Wise, Under Construction, Scrubbing Up Your Attitudes, Sudsing Up Your Actions, and Standing Up to Sin. Each part includes five chapters and a discussion summary. The chapters cover a particular lesson or concept.

The fragmented nature of the book continues within the chapters. Each divided into sub-components with names like "Brain Drain," "Bible Chunk," "Sticky Stuff," and "Act It Out." Each "Sticky Stuff" directs the reader to memorize a removable Scripture Card from inside the back cover of the book.

While many adults may find the "spoon feeding" nature of *Wise Up* unappealing, this book is intended to grab and hold the attention of junior high school students. Older elementary/middle school kids could definitely benefit from the Bible studies in this book. While each chapter opens with a hip, irreverent vignette, the rest of the chapter is very serious about directing the reader to Scripture and God. The text is focused on equipping and encouraging students to live for God.

The Bible studies within this book are designed for group or individual use. It's easy to see a junior high group getting maximum use of this material. Groups may choose to use only part of a lesson and defer the rest as "homework." The memory cards are an important bonus: they encourage internalizing Scripture.

If the rest of the Early Teen Discipleship series is of the caliber of this book, Young groups

across the country will soon be using this text and its sister volumes.

Kirk Hunt, Instructor, Pima County Community College-Business & Industry Division, Tucson, Arizona

Eric Liddell : Something Greater than God, by Janet and Geoff Benge. (Christian heroes: then and now.) LCCN 98030892. Seattle: YWAM Publishing, 1999. PAP, 1576581373, \$8.99.

266. Liddell, Eric, 1902-1945; Missionaries--Scotland--Biography; Missionaries--China--Biography; Runners (Sports). 203 p. (High school).

Janet and Geoff Benge bring the life and times of this famous Scotsman, Eric Liddell, to the reader. This book starts with Eric's win in the Olympics, traces his humble beginnings, and ends with the impact his life has made after his death in a Japanese internment camp. The book quickly and simply tells how deeply committed to following Christ Eric was. The plot is easy to follow and basically chronological with the focus on Eric, which helps the reader to see inside his mind. This allows the reader to understand the why's and why not's of Eric's choices. Recurrent through the book is Eric's commitment to do what God told him to do at the right time. Additionally, Eric's ability to get along with others without being judgmental is exemplified often in the book. Supporting characters are handled well but are not developed completely. The actions of the Chinese and Japanese during the life of Eric are mentioned while never being derogatory.

The paperback is of high quality and the attractive cover should draw the attention of many middle school to lower high school students. The bibliography and map will guide the reader to more information regarding this remarkable Christian. This husband and wife team has over thirteen years of writing, and they work with Youth with a Mission, the publisher of this book. This is just one in a series of Christian Heroes: Then and Now. This will be a welcomed edition to any library.

Bianca Elliott, Teacher, Linwood, Kansas

Gladys Aylward : The Adventure of a Lifetime, by Janet and Geoff Benge. (Christian heroes: then and now.) LCCN 98019368. Seattle: YWAM Publishing, 1998. PAP, 1576580199, \$8.99.

266. Aylward, Gladys; Missionaries--England--Biography; Missionaries--China--Biography; Women--Biography. 205 p.

Gladys Aylward struggled to warm herself. With an offhanded invitation from a female missionary, she left her home in England traveling through Germany and Russia, until she found herself in the midst of a war in Siberia. The train she traveled on through Russia was now picking up dead Russian soldiers. She had been kicked off the train and was now retracing her steps down the freezing railroad tracks. Janet and Geoff Benge tell an exciting tale of Gladys Aylward's determination and frustration as she meets obstacles blocking her missionary

call to China in their biography *Gladys Aylward: The Adventure of a Lifetime*.

Unaccepted by the China Inland Missionary Society for poor grades and advanced years (she was twenty-seven), her barriers to serving in China begin before she leaves England. With very little money and no missionary training, Gladys takes work as a housemaid to earn her way to China. She preaches from a soapbox in the park to practice her oratory skills. One day she overhears that an elderly missionary to China needs help. She applies for the job, thus beginning her journey into inland China.

From housemaid to innkeeper, foot inspector to adoptive mother, Gladys Aylward serves the Chinese people, showing them Jesus' love and sharing the Gospel. The authors intertwine the story of Gladys with Chinese history and the political climate of Europe. This gives the reader a fuller understanding of the struggles of working within China.

The biography is one of fourteen books in the series, Christian Heroes: Then and Now by the husband and wife team. The authors provide a map of China in the front of the book with a more detailed inset of the area within which Gladys ministered. Except for a brief mention of the 1931 New Year, the reader must wait to find out the exact time period that Gladys served. Flashbacks further into the book reveal the date Gladys departs from England. There is a very short bibliography at the end of the book for further reading.

Joanne M. Haffly, Homeschool Parent/Freelance Writer, Gig Harbor, Washington

Hudson Taylor : Deep in the Heart of China, by Janet and Geoff Benge. (Christian heroes: then and now.) LCCN 98021283. Seattle: YWAM Publishing, 1998. PAP, 1576580164, \$8.99.

266. Taylor, James Hudson, 1832-1905; Missionaries--England--Biography; Missionaries--China--Biography; China Inland Mission. 205 p.

Hudson Taylor listened with feigned interest to the biblical teaching of his father and his minister. Resentment toward their old-fashioned teachings built up until one morning, utterly bored, Hudson picked up a religious pamphlet from his father's store. In his father's warehouse he accepted Christ into his heart. Hudson's discovery that both his mother and his sister had prayed for his conversion led him to a realization that God did answer prayers. In their biography *Hudson Taylor: Deep in the Heart of China*, authors Janet and Geoff Benge capture the remarkable trust this man had for God.

Soon after his conversion, Hudson heard the calling to China. So he set about to learn more about the Chinese language by comparing the Chinese translation of Luke with the English version. Inspired by the work of Walter Medhurst, Hudson was also determined to acquire medical training. Each step along the way, Hudson's policy was to take each need to prayer and never ask anyone for money. Time

after time, he waited and watched as the Lord led individuals to contribute to his training and ministries.

Upon arrival in China, Hudson adopted another idea from Medhurst. He dyed his hair and wore the clothes of the Chinese. His belief was that he would be more accepted for his message if the people weren't fearful of his appearance. Some of his unconventional methods alienated him from established missionary groups. Ultimately he formed the China Inland Mission.

This biography is one of fourteen books in the Christian Heroes: Then and Now series by the husband and wife team. The story begins with an exciting moment in Hudson's life, then flashes back so it immediately captures the reader. The first chapter neglects to set the exact time Hudson left for China so the reader must wait until halfway through the second chapter to understand the time frame. The authors provide a map of China in the front of the book with a more detailed inset of where Hudson served. The book ends with a simple bibliography for further reading.

Joanne M. Haffly, Homeschool Parent/Freelance Writer, Gig Harbor, Washington

700's—The Arts and Recreation

All about hockey, by George Sullivan; illustrated with photographs and diagrams. LCCN 97038125. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, Penguin Putnam, 1998. HBB, 0399231722, \$15.99.

796.962. Hockey; Hockey--History. 159 p.

With engaging descriptions, George Sullivan explores the gamut of hockey. He outlines the game, rules, skills, the offense, the defense, the NHL, the World Cup, and star players. There is an extensive glossary with novice and advanced terminology. Black and white photography, diagrams, and figures represent the techniques, plays, and players. There are appendices of All-Time Records and Additional Resources.

Sullivan succinctly outlines the game, and does so with gusto. He makes the game exciting to novices without being too basic for established aficionados. The black and white photography and figures illustrate the concepts well, but lack the pizzazz of color diagrams and photographs. This may be a deterrent for teen and pre-teen sports fans who have become accustomed to glossy, color presentations.

Carol M. Jones, Librarian, South Side Elementary School and Marquette Pre-K Center, Champaign, Illinois

900's—Geography, History, & Biography

Ida B. Wells-Barnett : powerhouse with a pen, by Catherine A. Welch. (Trailblazer biography.) LCCN 99035291. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, Lerner, 1999. HBB, 1575053527, \$23.93.

921 (323'.092). Wells-barnett, Ida B., 1862-1931; Civil rights workers; Afro-Americans--Biography; Race relations; Women--Biography. 104 p.

Once upon a time, about 140 years ago, a little black girl was born into a very white world. *Ida B. Wells-Barnett : Powerhouse with a Pen*, by Catherine Welch, is her story.

Although born after the Civil War, Ida's life wasn't easy. At age sixteen she lost both parents and a brother to yellow fever. Ida was a strong, passionate person. The prejudice that began to rise up catapulted her to action. She wrote a letter to the editor of her hometown newspaper in Memphis, Tennessee. Soon another editor contacted her to write a column for his newspaper, *The Free Speech*. Ida jumped at the chance. She wanted to rile up the black community to action. Soon she gained a reputation for being gutsy; however the white papers called her a troublemaker.

That didn't stop her. Like any good reporter, Ida investigated many so-called crimes the white papers reported and learned that the white press often lied about black crimes. They also liked to publicize, even sensationalize black lynchings.

Although most of Ida's friends were getting married and starting their families, Ida had no heart for that. Her passion and faith drove her. Many times Ida risked her life for her cause.

This book will inspire Americans even now, a century later. Welch's research and simple writing style along with antique photographs will appeal to all. Black and white, young and old, will all learn from history and especially from the spitfire, Ida B. Wells.

Ginger McGrath, Freelance Writer, McMinnville, Oregon

***Cal Ripken, Jr. : my story*, Adaptation of *The only way I know*, by Cal Ripken, Jr. and Mike Bryan; adapted by Dan Gutman. LCCN 98007799. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, Penguin Putnam, 1999. HBB, 0803723482, \$16.99.**

921 (796.357'092). Ripken, Cal. 1960-; Baseball players--United States--Biography. 113 p.

Cal Ripkin is best known for holding the record of playing the most consecutive major league baseball games. In *Cal Ripken, Jr.: My Story*, which children's sports writer Dan Gutman adapted from Cal's autobiography *The Only Way I Know*, the reader follows Ripkin from his childhood as the son of a baseball manager and coach, through his years in the minors, to his career as a major league shortstop and third baseman for the Baltimore Orioles. Cal's reflections on the fame that came when he broke Lou Gehrig's record will be of special interest, as will his thoughts about the game in general—breaking a slump, knowing the importance of the basics, and what inspired him to "play well and play every day." Ripkin comes across as a decent human being who appreciates the advantages he has been given. He also reveals a deep sense of family, talking about what it was like to work for his father, Cal, Sr., and play for the Orioles alongside his brother Billy, and his desire to shield his wife and children from the glare of publicity.



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The simple sentence structure and narrative style make this book a good choice for reluctant readers. Two sections of mostly color photographs illustrate the text, and some of Ripkin's career statistics are included at the end. While baseball fanatics will find this a sure-sell, this book will appeal to a more general audience as well.

Lillian Heytvelt, Public Librarian, Pomeroy, Washington

Wow, Canada! : exploring this land from coast to coast to coast, by Vivien Bowers; illustrated by Dan Hobbs. LCCN C99930537. Toronto: Owl Books, Firefly, 1999. PAP, 1895688930, \$19.95.

972. Canada. 160 p. (Elementary).

Wow, Canada! by Vivien Bowers is the perfect travel guide for upper elementary or middle school-aged youngsters heading for any part of that vast country, or anyone who would just like an unconventional glimpse of it. Each province or territory has its own colorful chapter illustrated with snapshots, enlarged slides, and, ostensibly, kid's drawings and cartoons of what they have seen. Sidebars entitled According to Mom, According to Dad, Food I Was Introduced to for My Own Good, and Exceedingly Weird are found in each chapter, lending humor to the presentation of interesting facts. The entire book is presented as a kid's running commentary on what he is seeing, things he is learning, and people he is meeting as he travels across Canada with his family. All sorts of interesting facts are woven into his fascinated report scattered among a scrapbook-like arrangement of pictures, souvenirs, and cartoons. The end of the book contains a small handbook listing each province or territory, giving its flag, the origin of its name, symbols, size, population, etc., and finishes with an index of the entire book. *Wow, Canada!* is not primarily a source of report material, but it conveys the "gee-whiz" nature of travel to a different place than one's home with pizzazz and the grandeur of Canada in a way that will capture the interest of middleers.

Pamela A. Todd, Librarian/English Teacher, Chalcedon Christian School, Cumming, Georgia

Sounding forth the trumpet for children, by Peter Marshall and David Manuel, with Anna Wilson Fishel. LCCN 98043952. Grand Rapids: Revell, Baker, 1999. PAP, 0800756924, \$10.99.

973. History--Religious aspects--Christianity; Slavery; United States--History--1815-1861; United States--Church history--19th century. 208 p.

Until I opened this book and read it, I didn't realize it was intended for middle-school readers—the cover design and text have an "adult" look. This is unfortunate, because once inside, readers discover a fascinating description of events and people in our nation's history between 1837 and 1860, starting with John Quincy Adams in his later years as Senator and ending with the bitter struggle over states' rights, human rights, and slavery before the Civil War.

Authors Peter Marshall and David Manuel with Anna Fishel skillfully weave narration, facts, and intriguing scenes complete with dramatic dialogue, all of which successfully bring history alive for the reader. In fact, I was disappointed when I came to the last page because I wanted to read more.

Sounding Forth the Trumpet for Children is told from a Judeo-Christian point of view, revealing the strong faith of America's Founding Fathers and the important role people of faith had in the abolition movement and the Underground Railroad. The authors also present their strong pre-destination belief related to America's spread across the continent from the Eastern colonies to the West coast, and the country's fight over slavery eventually leading to the Civil War. This is most prevalent in the first three chapters as if God planned these events, rather than a possible result of evil and God's ability to "work all things together for good for those who love God." Overall, however, this book is historically strong and very interesting to read. A glossary appears in the back along with a special section of suggested study questions for each chapter.

Kimm Swenson Gollnick, Writer, Speaker & Teacher (Marion Independent Schools), Marion, Iowa

Abraham Lincoln the writer : a treasury of his greatest speeches and letters, compiled and edited by Harold Holzer. LCCN 99066551. Honesdale, Pa.: Caroline House, Boyds Mills, 2000. HBB, 1563977729, \$15.95.

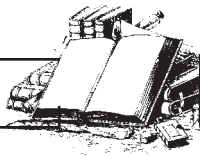
973.7'092. Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865; United States--Politics and government--1861-1865; Presidents--United States--Biography. 106 p.

In *Abraham Lincoln the Writer: a Treasury of His Greatest Speeches and Letters*, editor Harold Holzer has arranged a compilation of primary source materials to allow readers to get to know Lincoln through his own words. While this offering includes excerpts from his famous speeches, inaugural addresses, and debates, the telegrams to his family, letters written to families of fallen soldiers, and rhymes jotted on the margins of a childhood arithmetic book give readers a more personal insight into Lincoln's world. Holzer has written a number of books about Lincoln and he does a fine job introducing each excerpt, giving historical perspective and explaining the text's importance to one's understanding of Lincoln.

While this is probably not the only book one would use to write a report, it is a fine resource for students seeking quotations and for those who already have some knowledge of Abraham Lincoln. The short sections, usually one to a page, include many black and white reproductions of period photographs, drawings, and documents that illustrate the text effectively. Students will find the detailed year-by-year chronology of important events in Lincoln's life very helpful. Also included is an interesting list of "Lincoln Places to Visit" such as Ford's Theater National Historic Site in Washington,

D.C., and the Gettysburg National Military Park in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Lillian Heytvelt, Public Librarian, Pomeroy, Washington



***Checkmate in the Carpathians*, by Mary Reeves Bell. (Passport to danger; 3.) LCCN 99051013. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2000. PAP, 1556615515, \$5.99.**

F. Antisemitism--Fiction; Prejudices--Fiction; Jews--Romania--Fiction; Romania--Fiction. 207 p. High school.

Con and his best friend Hannah are looking forward to an exciting ski weekend in the Carpathian Mountains of Romania. Traveling by train from Vienna, they play chess and plan their days of skiing. When Con reads a letter from his elderly friend Frau Marie Rozstoski, their plans change dramatically. Frau Rozstoski asks them to go to her childhood home in Romania. She wants to know the fate of a baby whose father was killed the night the Iron Guard raided her home searching for Jews. Before they can decide what to do about Frau Rozstoski's request, Con sees Hans Grunwald, the neo-Nazi who tried to kill them last year, walking past their train compartment. Refusing to admit there could be danger, they tell no one Con has seen Grunwald.

Con and Hannah discover Frau Rozstoski's once beautiful estate is now a dilapidated orphanage. Poppy, an appealing little boy at the orphanage, asks Con to come back. Hannah's ambassador uncle sends Con and Hannah to photograph a neo-Nazi rally. Spotted by Grunwald at the rally, they are on the run again. Excitement mounts as Con and Hannah try to find Poppy's true identity and stay one step ahead of Grunwald.

Third in the Passport To Danger series, *Checkmate in the Carpathians* by Mary Reeves Bell blends excitement and mystery with the reality of the lingering effects of World War II. A prologue provides background. The epilogue closes the book on a high note. The author also provides additional historical information. Although the book is fiction, some of the events and people are real. Cheri Bladholm's excellent cover illustration pictures Con, Hannah, and Poppy just as they are described in the book.

Barbara Bryden, Freelance Writer, Olympia, Washington

***Dancer*, by Lorri Hewett. LCCN 98055501. New York: Dutton Children's Books, Penguin Putnam, 1999. HBB, 0525459685, \$15.99.**

F. Ballet dancing--Fiction; Afro-Americans--Fiction. 214 p. High school.

Stephanie's dream is to become a professional ballerina. She thinks she has a chance, but constantly struggles with self-doubt. Even if she's good enough, how many dance companies will accept a black ballerina? Her parents aren't very encouraging, either. Now that she is a

senior in high school, they want her to spend less time in ballet and start preparing for college. Stephanie wonders if she should just give up her dream and follow her parents' wishes.

Then she meets Aunt Winnie, a beautiful older woman who once danced with Arthur Mitchell, the founder of the Dance Theatre of Harlem. Aunt Winnie encourages Stephanie to pursue her dream, and even offers to help her with her dancing. Stephanie spends even more time working on ballet, which causes more tension between herself and her parents.

Dancer, by Lorri Hewett, is a touching story about the trials of growing up. High school students will relate to Stephanie's struggles as she tries to make the right decisions about her career. There are times when Stephanie is extremely disrespectful to her parents. Although she is sorry for things she says to them, she never really tries to make amends. Several of the minor characters drink and smoke, but none of these are Stephanie's close friends. There is a party where there is drinking and drug use, but Stephanie is very uncomfortable and soon leaves. Mild profanity is used throughout the book. Perhaps the best thing about the book is seeing Stephanie mature. Towards the end, she begins to see the wisdom of her parents' point of view. She realizes that going to college doesn't mean giving up her dream.

Robyn Wyatt, Freelance Writer, Port Orchard, Washington

***Esperanza rising*, by Pam Munoz Ryan. LCCN 00024186. New York: Scholastic, 2000. HBB, 0439120411, \$15.95.**

F. Mexican Americans--California--Fiction; Agricultural laborers--Fiction; California--Fiction. 262 p. High school.

Esperanza Ortega begins her life in Aguacalientes, Mexico, on El Rancho de las Rosas. Her father, a wealthy landowner, coddles and spoils her and gives her pretty dresses, beautiful things, and a lovely doll. Esperanza has many friends, including Miguel, the son of her father's servants. Though she is fond of Miguel, she feels they are worlds apart because she is the daughter of a wealthy landowner and he is but the son of a servant. She expresses this to him by saying they are on opposite sides of a river.

Tragedy strikes, when her father is killed on the eve of her birthday. Esperanza's life changes dramatically. Frightening and mysterious occurrences convince Esperanza's mother they are no longer safe in Mexico. Esperanza and her mother escape with Miguel and his family to California in the United States. There, wearing old clothing and living in a farm laborer's camp, Esperanza learns how to work and begins to deal

with her own attitudes about classism. In her new country, with the help and friendship of Miguel and his family, Esperanza learns to cross the river to equality.

The book is rich in symbolism. Children and teens will not miss the symbolism of the hills and valleys of the Abuelita's knitted blanket. And, they will quickly grasp the passage of time in the fruit and vegetables that Ryan uses as the title of each chapter. Younger readers may have more difficulty understanding Abuelita's smooth stones and the angry thorn of the rose.

Pam Munoz Ryan has created a beautiful story based on the mythical creature, The Phoenix, rising from ashes. *Esperanza Rising* is a beautifully crafted novel that brings history to life for young readers from the eyes of one young Mexican immigrant. Ryan touches on women's rights, the Mexican Deportation Act, and the plight of farm laborers during the Great Depression with a compelling, absorbing story.

Dell Smith Klein, Freelance Writer, Teacher, Yarnell, Arizona

***Of heroes and villains*, by Mark Delaney. (Misfits, Inc.; 2.) LCCN 98036466. Atlanta: Peachtree, 1999. PAP, 1561451789, \$5.95.**

F. Cartoons and comics--Collectors and collecting--Fiction; Mystery and detective stories. 202 p. High school.

★

***Growler's horn*, by Mark Delaney. (Misfits, Inc.; 3.) LCCN 99086977. Atlanta: Peachtree, 2000. PAP, 1561452068, \$5.95.**

F. Musicians--Fiction; Mystery and detective stories. 232 p. High school.

In *Of Heroes and Villains*, Byte, Jake, Peter, and Mattie are high school students who have formed a group called the Misfits. When anonymously invited to a comic book convention, they not only discover the identity of the friend who invited them but witness the theft of valuable film canisters by a comic book bad guy brought to life. Their investigation of the case uncovers a bitter comic strip creator, disgruntled employees, and a plot to destroy a comic hero who has become a household phenomenon. The Misfits face firework, cleverly disguised thugs, and entrapment in a burning trailer; however, they are not dissuaded from their mission to solve the mystery and save the day.

In *Growler's Horn*, Jake acquires a clarinet from an auction that opens the door to two forty-year-old mysteries: 1.) disappearance of a nearly famous jazz clarinet player, Growler Morton, and 2.) theft of three million dollars worth of

untraceable bonds. Clues found in Jake's clarinet, a record, and some sheet music hold the key to both mysteries. The Misfits band together once again to catch the villains. Includes a fully fleshed out, believable thief, keeping the really evil guy hidden until the end. Puzzling clues, plenty of red herrings, and dialog interplay of Misfits make this quick read a treat.

Of Heroes and Villains by Mark Delaney is a formula puzzler, written in much the same style as Nancy Drew or Hardy Boys mysteries. Teens encounter funny business, face near death danger, win respect of local, skeptical police chief in cracking tough case, and inhale victory as criminals are led away in handcuffs. *Growler's Horn* is a major improvement over the more canned mystery, *Of Heroes and Villains*. Delaney must have just been warming up in book #2, because #3 is a winner. No need to have read previous books in series to keep up with characters.

Kim Harris, Librarian, Newman Riga Library, Churchville, New York

***Hope was here*, by Joan Bauer. LCCN 00038232. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, Penguin Putnam, 2000. HBB, 0399231420, \$16.99.**

F. Diners (Restaurants)--Fiction; Politics, Practical--Fiction; Cancer--Fiction. 186 p. High school.

Sixteen-year-old Hope Yancey and her aunt Addie are moving again, this time from Brooklyn to rural Wisconsin, where Addie will manage and cook for G.T. Stoop's Welcome Stairways diner. Among the things Hope takes with her each time they move are a scrapbook of her young life's mementos to bring her estranged father up to speed when they finally find each other, and a globe "to keep a world view, because you can't just live like you're the only person who matters." Left by her mother at birth with just two things—the name Tulip and a gift for waitressing, Hope keeps only the latter and tries throughout the book to live up to the name she has chosen for herself. G.T. serves as Hope's inspiration, for while he's just been diagnosed with leukemia, that doesn't stop him from taking on the town's corrupt incumbent mayor Eli Millstone in a candidacy that surprises everyone. As Hope gets involved in the campaign she learns about the realities of small town politics, and gets to know "grill man supreme" Braverman, 6.7 and climbing on the male cuteness scale, also G.T.'s biggest supporter. Hope eventually finds in G.T. the father she never had when he and Addie find a love of their own.

In *Hope Was Here*, Joan Bauer creates characters who experience real pain, but whose strength, faith, and humor allow them to grow through it, each in their own ways. Although Hope knows very well the feelings of abandonment and betrayal, she is still able to connect with her customers and laugh at herself, perhaps because she once took up boxing and

punched the anger out, or maybe because she writes poetry to express how, sometimes, the well just comes up dry. Teens will appreciate that the budding romance between Hope and Braverman is more in tune with reality as they begin awkwardly, and sometimes banter back and forth, eventually building a relationship based on friendship and trust. The book is sprinkled throughout with funny but thoughtful waitressing tips and witty dialogue. Hope and Addie don't just serve food—they serve people, and G.T.'s brave example is to do what's right no matter who opposes you, while you've got the time.

Where Hope would always leave her mark by writing "HOPE WAS HERE" in ink someplace significant at each diner they'd been, it is the Welcome Stairways that in the end leaves it's mark on her heart. This is a book that will stick to your ribs.

Denise Griffin, Freelance Writer, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

***A horse of a different color*, by Dandi Daley Mackall. (Horsefeathers; 4.) LCCN 99050885. St. Louis, Mo.: Concordia, 2000. PAP, 0570070090, \$6.00.**

F. Christian life--Fiction; Truthfulness--Fiction; Horsemanship--Fiction. 192 p. High school.

In this fourth installment in the Horsefeathers series fourteen year old Sarah Coop or Scoop to her friends is caught in a financial crisis. Since the death of her grandfather she has been struggling with the help of her aunt Dotty, her little brother B.C., and her friends Maggie, Carla, and Jen to keep Horsefeathers Stable solvent.

When she rescues Diablo, the runaway appaloosa of high school junior Ben Thayer, she hopes for some new business and is thrilled to discover that his mother is the host of "Della's Place," a popular local television show. Ben arranges for his mother to profile Horsefeathers. Maybe this "fifteen minutes of fame" will be enough to save the stable. But as her friend Maggie gets more romantically involved with Ben, Scoop hears rumors about him and becomes worried for her friend. Soon Maggie involves her in "little lies" to conceal the relationship and to make it appear that Scoop is performing miracles in training Diablo for the upcoming show. Inevitably Maggie feels the conviction of the Holy Spirit. What should she do? Can't she just make everything right after she gets the needed media exposure?

Dandi Daley Mackall has fine insight into the temptations of teens. Through Scoop's trials the reader easily sees the way that rationalizations are used in order to justify "small sins" which lead to bigger and bigger transgressions, ultimately pulling one away from a loving God. But the author does not leave the reader there and goes on to portray how through the ministry of the Holy Spirit the transgressor is led back into the merciful arms of our forgiving God.

Teresa O'Donley, Library Media Specialist, Baymonte Christian School, Scotts Valley, California

***The 1920's : luck*, by Dorothy and Tom Hoobler. (The century kids.) LCCN 00020403. Brookfield, Ct.: Millbrook Press, 2000. HBB, 0761316027, \$21.90.**

F. Afro-Americans--Fiction; Chicago (Ill.)--Fiction. 160 p. High school.

It's 1927 in Pickettsville, Georgia, and twelve year-old Lorraine Dixon's mamma is facing a hard decision. Lorraine's father has just been convicted of stealing a wallet from the white man whose car he was working on, and because he stood up for his innocence in court, they have now heard that his accuser may come after the rest of the family as well. Daddy said they were to leave Pickettsville and move to Chicago, Illinois, where they could be safe and where opportunities for Negroes were abundant. Nobody wants to leave Daddy behind during his year-long sentence, but Lorraine, her older sister, Nancy; and little brother, Marcus, follow Mamma onto the train and north to a very different world. Once in Chicago, Mrs. Dixon finds work caring for the children of an Italian family who own one of the most popular Italian restaurants in the city. These successful immigrants treat the Dixon's more like family than employees or "colored folk." Lorraine is soon introduced to new foods, new ideas and new people, including her idol, the famous actress, Nell Aldrich, who has come to Chicago to make a movie. Invited to visit the site and watch the movie being filmed, Lorraine and Marcus meet Miss Aldrich's nephew, Charley, and together they become involved in tracking down the thief who stole Miss Aldrich's diamond necklace.

Luck by Dorothy and Tom Hoobler contains the right amount of historical references to set this story squarely in its time period. The popular movie culture of the time and the setting of the story in Chicago reflect the excitement and flavor of the time. Even Babe Ruth makes a last chapter appearance. The plot is fast paced and exciting, the main events taking place in a mere few weeks.

In general, *Luck* is a good read and exceptional in its development of setting for readers of this age level, but a problem arises with the fact that this book, and the series of which it is a part, is also presented as an historical and sociological look at the decade of the 20th century with which each deals. It is an admirable and ambitious goal, but it is here that the novel falls short. The "rags to riches" story of the black Dixon family is just too incredible to believe. From a poor but respectable, rural Georgia existence threatened by stereotypical white trash, they are catapulted into rubbing elbows with movie stars and famous gangsters in a matter of days. The fact that they are "Negroes" suddenly becomes irrelevant, and by the end of the story they have solved a famous crime, are best friends with the wealthy scion of the New England Aldrich's, and are spending the summer at their "place" in Maine. A more serious

objection arises from references the authors make to the sensational trial of Sacco and Vanzetti which is mentioned sympathetically several times. The reader is obviously supposed to draw parallels between their situation and Mr. Dixon's unfair trial and sentence. The fact that these men are never identified as anarchists dedicated to violence as the means to achieving their goals and that at least one of them was most certainly guilty, is glaringly dishonest. Another problem with *Luck* is that it glamorizes the movie and gangster culture of the era with never a word about the real moral and social dilemmas these influences were causing in American life and in America's view of itself; and that, after all, is what this series purports to be about.

Pamela A. Todd, Librarian/English Teacher, Chalcedon Christian School, Cumming, Georgia

Raising the bar, by Lauraine Snelling. (High hurdles; 9.) LCCN 99006545. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1999. PAP, 0764220373, \$5.99.

F. Horses--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction; Fear--Fiction. 154 p. High school.

It's summer in the world of fifteen-year-old Darla Jean (DJ) Randall and this is the busiest one yet. Between finishing ceramics class with her beloved Gran, beginning drawing class with Isabella Gant, jumping lessons on her horse, Herndon, and shows almost every weekend, DJ barely has time to think. But she continues to dream about qualifying for the Olympic Equestrian Team and looks forward to the highlight of her summer: a week-long stay at the U.S. Equestrian Team's training camp in New Jersey.

When she finds herself screaming uncontrollably at the candles on her little stepbrothers' birthday cake, DJ realizes that an old fear has taken control of her life and she begins to doubt that God will deliver her. Meanwhile she is struggling to establish a connection with her new horse Herndon and learn all his tricks and habits. Upon returning from the training camp, a mysterious fire threatens not only their growing bond but the safety of all the horses in the barn. DJ must overcome a deep, secret fear to be able to save her horse.

The ninth book in Lauraine Snelling's High Hurdles series focuses on God's ability to answer prayer and the role of adversity in building faith. While a few scenes were a little too dramatic to be believable and character development was weak overall, *Raising the Bar* will satisfy young horse enthusiasts looking for an adventure story with a godly message.

Lillian Heytvelt, Public Librarian, Pomeroy, Washington

Stick and Whittle, by Sid Hite. LCCN 99054763. New York: Scholastic, 2000. HBB, 0439098289, \$16.95.

F. Frontier and pioneer life--West (U.S.)--Fiction; Orphans--Fiction; West (U.S.)--Fiction. 202 p. High school.

Melvin Fritchett, twenty-six, is riding alone near the Chisholm Trail in 1870's Texas when he is "ambushed" by orphan Melvin Smythe who is sixteen. The two dub each other "Stick" (older Melvin) and "Whittle" and decide to travel together.

Stick has been looking for his lost love, Evelyn, who mistakenly believes that he died in the Civil War. Whittle is looking for a purpose and a destiny. On the trail they meet Talking Walk and his granddaughter Brings The Rain, with whom Whittle is instantly smitten.

After parting company with the natives, Stick and Whittle ride into the wild town of Caldwell, Kansas, where Stick learns that a young heiress has been kidnapped along with her governess, who turns out to be none other than his long lost love, Evelyn. He determines to rescue her from the band of desperados and Whittle refuses to be left behind.

With the intervention of a tornado the pair again encounter Brings The Rain and Talking Rock, who agree to help them liberate Evelyn and her young charge. But their plan is a risky one and not everyone will come back alive.

Stick and Whittle is an amusing tale told with relish by Sid Hite and is sure to entertain most readers. There are several twists and turns and improbable happenings that will keep older kids involved in the story. The lessons of perseverance and loyal friendship are well told. However, Stick is first bedeviled and then led by his dreams, and there are several discussions about whether all of this is because of God or because of luck and which is better to believe in. No definitive answer is really given and so it would be a good opportunity for discussion between parents and children.

Teresa O'Donley, Library Media Specialist, Baymonte Christian School, Scotts Valley, California

Tangled web, by Shirley Brinkerhoff. (The Nikki Sheridan series; 5.) LCCN 99053733. Minneapolis: A Focus on the Family Book, Bethany House, 2000. PAP, 1561797375, \$5.99.

F. Christian life--Fiction; Mothers and daughters--Fiction; Divorce--Fiction. 166 p. High school.

New Christian Nikki Sheridan lives with her grandparents in Michigan and is preparing to celebrate her eighteenth birthday when her distant and distraught mother, Rachel, shows up with her luggage. That night Rachel informs Nikki that her father has moved in with another woman. In her anger and confusion Nikki confides in Jeff, a neighbor for whom she has developed feelings since he helped her the year before in dealing with her pregnancy and the subsequent adoption of her baby boy, but it seems he is already involved with Shannon, a girl from the college he attends.

Keesha, Nikki's best friend, in an effort to help her forget Jeff tries to get her involved with Mitch and Steve, friends Keesha has met on the Internet. Keesha arranges to meet Steve and

later pressures Nikki to double date with her, Steve and Mitch. Nikki wisely refuses.

Meanwhile Grandmother's friend Arleta has arranged for Nikki to share her testimony at a tea which peers from her school will be attending. Nikki is overwhelmed with her feelings for Jeff, the pressure from Keesha, the upcoming tea and the new softness in her mother. Through the encouragement and guidance of her grandparents, Nikki is able to rely on the Lord for the answers to her problems. After an argument with Jeff and against her better judgment, Nikki meets with Keesha and her "web friends." As she feared, things are not what they seem and only the Lord can save the girls.

Tangled Web is the fifth in the Nikki Sheridan series and is sure to appeal to high school girls with its honest and frank dealings the contemporary issues—divorce, unwed pregnancy, peer pressure, the Internet—that many modern readers grapple with. Shirley Brinkerhoff has done a fine job of plot development interwoven with Nikki's growing reliance on Christ.

Teresa O'Donley, Library Media Specialist, Baymonte Christian School, Scotts Valley, California

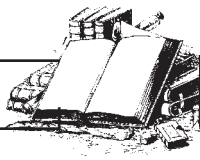
Waiting for dolphins, by Carole Crowe. LCCN 99066548. Honesdale, Pa.: Boyds Mills, 2000. HBB, 1563978474, \$14.95.

F. Fathers--Death--Fiction; Death--Fiction; Mothers and daughters--Fiction; Grief--Fiction. 139 p. High school (Middle school).

Author Carole Crowe weaves rich detail and vivid sensory description throughout *Waiting for Dolphins*. Told through the eyes of Molly, after her father's accidental death, the reader feels the guilt and scheming Molly feels. Molly and her mother return to the family houseboat, Emerald Eyes, after the funeral. Molly's under the assumption they'll sail Emerald Eyes to the Caribbean, while Molly's mother wishes to take the boat back to Florida and sell it as quickly as possible. To prevent her mother from selling Emerald Eyes and moving back to New York, and to come to terms with the circumstances surrounding her father's death, Molly steals the boat. Concerned that she can sail the boat herself, she enlists the help of a fun and reckless new friend, Christopher. Is he really interested in helping Molly, though, or does he only want to get his hands on Emerald Eyes?

The narrative provides wonderful realism of life on a houseboat—bathing in the ocean with Joy dish liquid because it lathers in salt water, then rinsing off the saltwater using the fresh water shower on board. It's apparent Crowe has lived on a sail boat in the Caribbean. These vivid details help the reader understand why Molly doesn't want to give up this life. Plagued by guilt surrounding her father's death, and battling the emotions of adolescence—intensified by a shaky relationship with her mother, and the onset of Hurricane Hank—*Waiting for Dolphins* provides plenty of exciting conflict.

Lisa A. Wroble, Library Aide/Freelance Writer, Plymouth, Michigan



200's—Religion

***A walk on the wild side : walking with the master*, by Dave Ens. (Devotions for youth.) LCCN 99189437. Winnipeg, MB: Kindred Productions, 1998. PAP, 0921788568, \$6.95.**

226.3'06. Teenagers--Religious life; Bible. N.T. Mark--Meditations; Bible. N.T. Mark--Study; Devotional calendars. 160 p.

A Walk on the Wild Side, by Dave Ens, is written in typical devotional style in that it has a suggested Scripture passage, a key verse, and an application. It differs in that Ens, who is a youth pastor in Winnipeg, Manitoba, writes directly to the reader using I-you point of view. For example, in "Listening to What Counts," (pg 41) Ens writes, "Look at verse 12. Do you notice anything strange about it? Does anything about that verse bother you? What strikes me is...." Ens provides "journaling" space in each of the devotions for the teen reader to write down thoughts, ideas, or questions.

A Walk on the Wild Side is well written and clear. The author uses a didactic style, but never writes down to his reader. Also, he peppers his pages with typical teen words, but an adult, as well as a teenager, would enjoy Ens' book.

A Walk on the Wild Side has 160 pages, divided into 50 devotions. The cover design by Makus Design of Winnipeg, Manitoba is attractive in sage-green with pink-red print and red and white, and brown and white photos.

Dell Smith Klein, *Writer, Teacher, Catalina, Arizona*

***Find your fit: dare to act on God's design for you*, by Jane Kise and Kevin Johnson. (LifeKeys 4 teens.) LCCN 00699004. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1998. PAP, 0764221477, \$10.99.**

242'.63. Teenagers--Religious life; Success--Religious aspects--Christianity; Self-Actualization (Psychology)--Religious aspects--Christianity; Personality assessment of teenagers. 208 p.

Find Your Fit: Dare to Act on God's Design For You, by Jane Kise and Kevin Johnson is a LifeKeys 4 Teens publication. What is so noteworthy about this book is that it is a mini-course on helping your teen to find their potential, to give wings to their dreams, and to help youth find their place in the world. Each section has several subtopics that are each designed to get the reader involved with the activities in the book.

In the section titled How to Locate a Life: Talents, the authors have included areas that challenge teens to seriously look at and examine the ideas they have for their future. There are six personalities described in this section: Realistics, Investigatives, Artistics, Socials,

Enterprisers, and Conventionals. These different types are important because each personality has different interests that influence what careers they would seek.

If your teen is having a difficult time realizing what his/her talents are, this book will definitely help. In the back are perforated tear out cards with different scriptures, all chosen specifically to impart wisdom for discovering talents. To further enhance this book, a detailed teaching guide is available at www.thewave.org/fit.htm. Jane Kise and Kevin Johnson have done an excellent job in creating a book that will surely help your teen, or a teen you know, discover God given talents and give them a head start on understanding where they fit. This book is a must have if you have teens in your home or your heart.

Debby Willett, *Teacher, Home School Parent, Canyon, Texas*

***True beauty : the inside story*, by Andrea Stephens. LCCN 00038221. Ann Arbor, Mich.: Servant Publications, 2000. PAP, 1569551634, \$9.99.**

242'.633. Teenage girls--Prayer-books and devotions; Fruit of the Spirit--Prayer-books and devotions; Devotional calendars; Prayer-books and devotions. 209 p.

Developing inner beauty in young women is the subject of Andrea Stephens' devotional book, *True Beauty: The Inside Story*. In the first of ten chapters, the author contrasts our culture's concept of beauty with God's definition of beauty, and intrigues the reader with nine beautiful qualities-fruit of the Spirit. Each of nine subsequent chapters offers five daily devotionals highlighting one fruit of the Spirit. Day one defines the beauty quality, while day two contrasts it. Days three and four portray the quality in the lives of Jesus and a female Bible character. Each day's Beauty Builders challenge the reader to apply what she learned that week. On day five she will find an introspective quiz, a prayer to her Heavenly Father, and an invitation to write a letter to Him in her Weekend Journal.

Joy and happiness, for example, are different. Depression and sadness are its opposites. Jesus and His mother Mary exhibited great joy in their lives. We can rejoice! Then right actions follow. Am I building or blasting joy? How can I change my attitudes and habits to become a more joyful person? How can I praise my Heavenly Father?

Stephens soundly builds Christ esteem with personal encouragement and Scripture. Her diction will delight teenage girls. The easy-to-read text is broken by a variety of little boxes, blanks, lists, and drawings-a personal devotional

book which smacks of a diary. The reader will find encouragement and learn how much the Father esteems her as she is compelled to make this book part of her very being. Stephens' message to young girls is, "You were born to be beautiful, according to God's definition. You are precious to Him."

Rhonda Marie Lackey, *Freelance Writer, Retired Teacher/Librarian, Tukwila, Washington*

***Take the plunge : journey into prayer*, by Brad Huebert. LCCN 00421521. Winnipeg, MB: Kindred Productions, 2000. PAP, 0921788606, \$5.95.**

248.3'2. Prayer--Christianity; Lord's prayer; God-Name. 89 p.

Take The Plunge : Journey Into Prayer by Brad Huebert teaches the basics of prayer over a three month period. The book is divided into three parts containing blank pages for prayer requests and a short devotional for each day. The first section uses the Lord's Prayer as a springboard to learning more about prayer. Huebert notes that Jesus didn't say, "Pray this exact prayer." He said, "Pray like this...." and then gave the Lord's Prayer as kind of an outline to pray from." Working through the Lord's Prayer a line at a time he uses additional scripture to help the young reader understand.

In the second section the reader learns to pray using the names of God such as, "The Lord is my Banner," "I am...the truth," and "I am the Lord who heals you." Obviously a firm believer in healing, Huebert tells of times he has been healed and states, "Whether now or in glory, healing is God's will for you." He presents good material on the full armor of God and how to appropriate it. The third section, Tips and Truth, covers topics that don't fit in the other two chapters. How to hear God, knowing when you have prayed through a situation, and the importance of praise are all included in this section.

While written to appeal to teen-agers, adults will enjoy taking the three-month plunge into prayer also. Using an interesting and challenging format Huebert discusses difficult concepts of prayer clearly and simply. In the first section there are pages to record your thoughts on the Lord's Prayer. The second section has a page for the reader's insights into the names of God. The cover and book design by Brian Kauste is excellent. The frog on the cover is used throughout the book to mark each devotional.

Barbara Bryden, *Freelance Writer, Olympia, Washington*

Protestants in America, by Mark A. Noll; general editors, Jon Butler and Harry S. Stout. (Religion in American life.) LCCN 00027271. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000. HBB, 019511034X, \$22.00.

280'.4'0973. Protestant churches--United States--History. 155 p.

Long ignored or ridiculed into seeming insignificance, the pivotal role of religion in America is once more being taken seriously in the Oxford University Press' Religion in American Life series. It is presented in a form that is accessible to high school students. Author of *Protestants in America*, Mark Noll, takes the reader back to the beginning of the Reformation, Martin Luther, and John Calvin, in order to give a brief, but succinct overview of the beginnings of Protestantism in Europe. The beliefs, theologies, and ideas of the reformers are then traced across the Atlantic to their new, fertile home in America. Here the movement grows, splits, and grows even more as it influences, and is influenced by every aspect of the new world's economic, political and philosophical growth from 1607 to the 1970s.

Personalities and distinctly American movements within Protestantism are discussed and illustrated with black and white drawings, photographs, and period documents, as are the influences on it brought by immigration, war, and secularization. The appendices of *Protestants in America* include a list of Protestant denominations and their membership arranged by origin, a chronology of events in American Protestantism beginning in 1607 and continuing until 1999, a chapter by chapter list of titles for further reading, and an index of the entire volume. This book is an excellent overview of its subject for secular and Christian high school students alike.

Pamela A. Todd, English Teacher/Librarian, Chalcedon Christian School, Cumming, Georgia

500's—Natural Sciences & Mathematics

The Facts on File chemistry handbook, Diagram Group. LCCN 99048563. New York: Facts on File, 2000. HBB, 081604080X, \$29.95.

540. Chemistry--Handbooks, manuals, etc.. 223 p. (Adult).

A team of editors and contributors led by editorial director Moira Johnston wrote *The Facts on File Chemistry Handbook*. One of four books in the series, four categories divide the volume: glossary, biography, chronology, and charts/tables.

The glossary defines more than 1,400 chemistry related terms. The biography section gives paragraph long profiles of individuals who have contributed to the field of chemistry. Chronology lists advances in the science of chemistry beginning with 7000 BC and ending in 1999. The final section is a compilation of charts and tables including the periodic table.

Black and white illustrations line one edge of each page in the glossary section. From molecular formulas to diagrams of chemical processes the illustrations are greatly simplified.

The illustrations in the biography section vary from crude sketches and ragged downloaded portraits to more skillfully drawn detailed likenesses.

Except for the biographies, most of the information can be found in a basic chemistry textbook. But this book is marketed as a quick reference, not a textbook, and with the other Facts of File handbooks students can quickly cross-reference information. Other books in the series include *Physics*, *Earth Science*, and *Biology*.

Joanne M. Haffly, Freelance Writer, Homeschool Mother, Gig Harbor, Washington

The Facts on File dictionary of astronomy, 4th ed., edited by Valerie Illingworth and John O. E. Clark. LCCN 99017788. New York: Facts on File, 2000. LIB, 0816042837, \$55.00.

570'.3. Astronomy--Dictionaries. 490 p.

The accuracy and usefulness of *The Facts on File Dictionary of Astronomy* by Valerie Illingworth and John O. E. Clark is attested to by this publication in its fourth edition. A sizeable dictionary of over 470 pages, it provides brief but precise definitions for terms, objects, and theories as well as graphs and tables to enhance understanding. Mathematical formulae required for understanding of astronomical phenomena are also given along with a short explanation of the concept and its use. The definitions are self-referenced with those terms used within definitions and elsewhere defined in all capital letters. A very helpful feature is the inclusion of the meaning of the acronyms so widely used in scientific circles.

As with all the Fact on File dictionaries, "see" and "see also" references are abundant, guiding the reader to the correct expression of the term or concept being sought. The appendix at the end of the dictionary might be considered a ready reference handbook of astronomy. Tables on the characteristics of planetary satellites, names of asteroids, meteor showers, constellations, famous people in astronomy, and more will be invaluable to the librarian as well as the student researcher.

Pamela A. Todd, English Teacher/Librarian, Chalcedon Christian School, Cumming, Georgia

900's—Geography, History, & Biography

David Brainerd, by Ranelda Hunsicker. (Men of Faith.) LCCN 99006483. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1999. PAP, 0764221736, \$4.99.

921 (266). Brainerd, David, 1718-1747; Indians of North America--Missions; Missionaries--United States--Biography; Christian biography. 142 p. (Adult).

David Brainerd by Ranelda Hunsicker chronicles the life of one of America's earliest missionaries and the momentous time in which he lived. Born into a Puritan, New England family in 1718, Brainerd was the sixth of nine children. He lost both of his parents before he was out of his teen years and almost died himself from a measles epidemic. These early

exposures to death caused Brainerd great concern for his soul, but their effects usually faded until another death would remind him of his standing before God.

Despite a lack of certainty concerning his salvation, Brainerd decided to go into the ministry. He studied for six months in preparation for admission to Yale before he was finally brought to the realization of his own lost condition. At last come into a saving faith, Brainerd went on to become involved in the controversies surrounding the Great Awakening and devote himself to the proclamation of the Gospel among the Indians of colonial Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey until his own early death from tuberculosis at the age of 29. David Brainerd's short life and, for his time, unique mission in the service of Christ, has served as an inspiration to countless others. Missionaries from the 18th to the 20th centuries have credited him with inspiring them to make the commitment to mission work and to persist in that work against personal hardship.

Ranelda Hunsicker's short biography of David Brainerd must be regarded as a spare introduction to the man and his times. A more accurate understanding of Puritanism and its influence in the early years of America is needed to understand Brainerd and the events in his life than can be obtained in this work. Although replete with quotations from Brainerd's journals and reports, the author's narrative suffers from a flatness of language that renders her subject heroic but distant. The bibliography at the end of the book is annotated with helpful comments on the readability of the selections and their current availability.

Pamela A. Todd, English Teacher/Librarian, Chalcedon Christian School, Cumming, Georgia

John Calvin, by William Lindner. (Men of Faith.) Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1998. PAP, 0764220055, \$4.99.

921 (270.6). Calvin, Jean, 1509-1564; Theology. Doctrinal--History--16th century. 160 p. (Adult).

After the inspired writing of the Apostle Paul, there are few works that have had the impact or wielded the influence in the Christian world than those of John Calvin. His defense of the fledgling Reformation against attack from both Roman Catholic and Radical anabaptist alike, through his monumental Institutes of the Christian Religion, gave Protestantism a solid Scriptural and philosophical base from which it has influenced religious understanding and politics from that day to this. In his book entitled simply *John Calvin*, William Lindner examines the family and cultural background into which Calvin was born and how, through God's Providence, he was prepared to perform the immense task of systematizing the theology of the Bible and applying it to the social institutions of his time. Throughout this compact biography the reader is confronted with a real, vibrant man rather than the stiff icon of the perennially misunderstood theology that bears his name. Lindner's prose conveys the danger and excitement of the early Reformation

as Calvin slips out of France for safety in Switzerland only to be confronted with God's unexpected call thundered upon his head by the voice of the great William Farel. From that point on, the quiet scholar was transformed into bold defender, and from one city he changed the world.

Linder writes *John Calvin* with zest and an obvious affection for the man and his works. Readers will get a sense of the perils and controversies of the time as well as a taste of Calvin's eventful life. An appendix at the end of the book gives a chronological listing of all Calvin's writings and a select bibliography provides suggestions for further reading.

Pamela A. Todd, English Teacher/Librarian, Chaldeon Christian School, Cumming, Georgia

***Anne Frank : a hidden life*, by Mirjam Pressler. LCCN 99089604. New York: Dutton Children's Books, Penguin Putnam, 2000. HBB, 0525463305, \$15.99.**

921 (940.53'18'092). Frank, Anne, 1929-1945; Jews--Netherlands--Biography; Holocaust, Jewish (a939-1945)--Netherlands--Amsterdam; Women--Biography. 176 p. (Adult).

On Wednesday, April 5, 1944, Anne Frank addressed her diary, "I want to go on living even after my death!" To the hundreds of thousands of school children who read her story *The Diary of a Young Girl*, Anne gave her adolescent interpretation of the mayhem of her world. For anyone who has read the diary, author Mirjam Pressler provides further information about Anne's family, the political climate of that era, and insight into the publishing controversies over the subsequent diary versions.

This book is a commentary of events prior to Anne Frank's death and thereafter. Thus, the author tackles tough philosophical questions about the allied troops delayed response to the issue of mass extermination of ethnic groups by the Germans. She ties in Anne's writings with events that occurred using resources such as *The Diary of Anne Frank: The Critical Edition*, *Anne Frank Remembered*, and *The Diary of Anne Frank: The Definitive Edition* (which Pressler co-edited with Otto Frank, Anne's father).

In the earlier versions of the diary that Otto Frank controlled, he edited out entries dealing with Anne's awakening sexuality and relationship with Peter, a boy who lived in the Annex with them. The author discusses Anne's confusion over her feelings and speculates on the degree of petting that went on with Anne and Peter. These mature issues make the book more appropriate to readers in high school and above.

The book is fully indexed, footnoted, and contains two bibliographies. There is a foreword by a rabbi who personally knew Otto Frank, and a note by Otto Frank's stepdaughter. The author adds a postscript discussing the controversial new unpublished pages of Anne's diary and there is a Chronology section beginning with Anne Frank's birth and ending in 1998 with the new discovery of those pages. The center of the book contains eight pages of pictures of Anne, her family, and members of

the Annex. For those teaching about Anne Frank or who want more information about this young writer, this book is well worth the purchase.

Joanne M. Haffly, Freelance Writer, Homeschool Mother, Gig Harbor, Washington

***A brief history of Central America*, by Lynn V. Foster. LCCN 99462120. New York: Facts on File, 2000. LIB, 0816039623, \$45.00.**

972.8. Central America--History. 326 p.

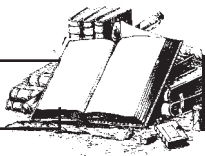
With our eyes trained on our cultural or economic equals, we Americans of the United States rarely attend to the small countries sharing our continent which lie to the south of Mexico. Unless there is a revolution or an earthquake, the nations of Central America are largely ignored. Most of us are woefully ignorant of their past and have no real conception of their present.

Lynn V. Foster's *A Brief History of Central America* is a good first step in rectifying this potentially dangerous oversight. Foster's book begins in the area's ancient past, treating the region as a whole, and traces the succession of peoples who have gained hegemony over it. More than a history of conquests, the author also delves into the social and cultural aspects of the parade of civilizations that have arisen here and examines their influences on each other, and brings history into the present. Formative events which occurred in each of the seven countries of Central America are related, but within the context of the entire region. Sidebars containing snippets on interesting people, events, statistics, and discoveries in the region are scattered throughout, giving the reader a feel for the dynamic cultural, political and economic realities contained in these small countries. *A Brief History...* ends with a wealth of indexes, one on each individual country in which the expected statistics are given, a bibliography of works consulted, and a very generous suggested reading list that is helpfully divided by topics which correspond to the book's chapters. The fourteen-page index is superb, as is the general layout of the book and its black and white graphics.

The distinct problem with any real examination of Central America is the role that the United States has played in the region. The truth of our involvement in the affairs of these countries is very uncomfortable even when examined objectively, but this can be exacerbated by the leftist point of view which dominates much of the scholarship in this area. An honest evaluation of the situation is probably impossible; but that being said, *A Brief History of Central America* comes close. Its language is measured and it allows Central Americans the dignity of responsibility for their own lives rather than couching every problem as a result of U.S. interference. Even so, readers should be awake to possible bias, especially in the books recommended for further reading. There are simply very few books available to high school students that cover the ground so amply and

completely as *A Brief History of Central America*. It is highly recommended for high school libraries.

Pamela A. Todd, English Teacher/Librarian, Chaldeon Christian School, Cumming, Georgia



***Blood moon rising*, by Eric E. Wiggin. LCCN 99047794. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2000. PAP, 0805420282, \$14.99.**

F. Espionage--Fiction; Adventure--Fiction; Christian fiction. 429 p.

Nicki Towns has a dream of creating a homeland for her people, the Assyrians. She believes it is her destiny to bring about the fulfillment of prophecies in the Bible regarding Assyria. She uses her expertise as a nuclear physicist to steal top secret missile plans from the U.S. company where she is employed. Chuck Reynolds, the company's security chief, is sent to investigate the situation. Somehow he finds himself the target of Iraqi assassins, and Nicki manages to save his life. The same group is after her. Chuck and Nicki find it is unsafe to remain in the U.S., so they leave the country incognito. As they travel together, Chuck discovers secrets about his own country that chill him to the bone. Nicki discovers Christ, and realizes she has been wrong to try to fulfill prophecy on her own. Chuck and Nicki discover that they are falling in love. They begin to work together, hoping to escape the Iraqis forever and save the U.S. from the threat of nuclear holocaust.

Blood Moon Rising, by Eric E. Wiggin, tries to be a suspense-thriller but falls somewhat short of its goal. It does have some good moments. The love story is sweet, though the two characters don't really seem to belong together. The technical explanations about the neutron bomb are clear and very understandable. Violence is prevalent and sometimes graphic, but always appropriate to the story. The historical connections to the prophet Daniel are interesting, if a little far-fetched. At times the action is very fast-paced and riveting. At other times the story moves slowly and is almost a chore to read. Some surprising twists and revelations at the end of the book make it a worthwhile read.

Robyn Wyatt, Freelance Writer, Port Orchard, Washington

★

***The bridge*, by Lisa Tawn Bergren. LCCN 00043543. Colorado Springs: WaterBrook, 2000. HBB, 0157862724, \$14.95.**

F. Traffic accident victims--Family relationships--Fiction; Fathers and sons--Fiction; Mothers--Fiction; Montana--Fiction. 244 p.

The Bridge by Lisa Tawn Bergren combines two searching hearts in a setting so appealing it causes the reader to get out the map and phone a travel agency. Jared, hoping to hop off the fast track for a while, takes his young son Nick to Montana. In his hopes to get to know his son

better, and to recover from the pain of a failed reconciliation with his former wife, Jared uses his simple surroundings to sort out how complicated his life has become. Finding solace in the cabin his great-uncle left him, Jared also finds himself caught up in his past, for this was the place where his mother was headed when she died so tragically. As Jared gets his uncle's cabin in order, his relationship with his son also shapes up. Enter Eden, a talented young potter who hides the pain of rejection in her clay works. The past of both these wounded hearts become bound together as Jared and Eden's friendship develops into a reluctant relationship. Bergren writes a strong novel as she unfolds the drama of two searching souls who must reconcile their past hurts. The interwoven drama of Anna, Jared's mother, adds a satisfying dimension to an already enthralling story. The author provides a credible storyline how God is the end to the search. Written with authenticity and generous detail, the author has widened her readership to beyond the Christian audience, as this is a book written for those who are looking for true reconciliation.

Pam Webb, School Librarian, Sandpoint, Idaho

★

***Evening star: a novel*, by Sigmund Brouwer. (Sam Keaton : legends of Laramie; 1.) LCCN 00009923. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2000. PAP, 0764223666, \$8.99.**

F. Laramie (Wyo.)--Fiction; Western stories. 317 p.

★

***Silver moon : a novel*, by Sigmund Brouwer. (Sam Keaton : legends of Laramie; 2.) LCCN 00009973. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2000. PAP, 0764223658, \$8.99.**

F. Sheriffs--Fiction; Laramie (Wyo.)--Fiction; Western stories. 319 p.

Sam Keaton is a loner, just trying to survive a past he inherited upon his brother's death. In saving the Indian's life, Sam kills one of the town's deputies, lands in jail, and acquires a close companion. Under the direction of a mysterious woman named Rebecca Montecalm, the Indian breaks Sam out of jail to be his trail guide into the Black Hills of Dakota, a land from which no man returns. Sam looks for Ms. Montecalm who, while effectively eluding him, continues to feed instructions for travel through the Indian. He eventually discovers that the Indian is Rebecca Montecalm, and learns that she is the grand-daughter of the great Sioux chief, Red Cloud. Her mother, with child by a white cavalry lieutenant, had been kidnapped

and shipped to England as an unwilling member of a traveling circus. Rebecca was given to nuns at a convent to be properly raised. Now the lovely half-breed is back, determined to find her father and any other family that remains. Gaining acceptance as a Sioux, she and Sam are aided in tracking down a killer who holds the key to Sam's dark past. The truth of Sam's innocence is revealed, and, with it, the realization that God does, in fact, exist and has always protected him.

Silver Moon by Sigmund Brouwer, is the continuing saga of Sam Keaton, cleared of all murder charges and the new marshal of Laramie. In this episode, Sam meets an old love, uncovers the double life of the sinister man in the snake-skin boots, and runs a suspicious circuit preacher out of town. Religious beliefs, presented in both books, form a natural progression of questions most people living on the edge of life and death ask about God and the universe. Very gracefully and unintrusively presented.

Evening Star and *Silver Moon* by Sigmund Brouwer, are the first and second books in the Sam Keaton: Legends of Laramie series. Fans of westerns will find both complete with a hint of the old Louis L'Amour charm, a splash of mystery, and a touch of romance, a delightful read. Well documented historical fiction, with characters that are fully developed and believable.

Kim Harris, Librarian, Newman Riga Library, Churchville, New York

***For whom the stars shine*, by Linda Chaikin. (Jewel of the Pacific; 1.) LCCN 99006623. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1999. PAP, 1556616473, \$9.99.**

F. Hawaii--History--Fiction; Love stories; Christian fiction. 320 p.

Eden Derrington, nineteen-year-old daughter of missionaries to Hawaii, has a mystery in her past. Her relatives claim her mother drowned, but Eden can't remember; neither can she remember the accident that left a scar on her forehead. No one is willing to answer her questions.

Set in the late 1800's, *For Whom the Stars Shine* tells the story of Eden's preparations to follow her calling to work beside her father, seeking a treatment for leprosy, while her cousins, Zachary and Rafe, vie for her attention. It's also the story of the legacy of the missionaries, and of the haole (white) plantation owners who came to dominate Hawaii's economy and politics.

A Note from the Editor: by Mary McKinney



Good Literature -- Right Standards

If we avoid reading secular fiction, we miss the many fine works that reflect the very same conflicts and joys we face in our walk with God.

Good literature comes in all sizes, styles and subjects. From *The Velveteen Rabbit* to *Ben Hur* we can find amazing tales of love, care, and the lifting up of the human spirit. Sometimes we tend to reject what we consider "secular" writing, concerned that it will present standards that are different and objectionable to our personal beliefs. Yet, rejection of all secular reading just might result in missing powerful messages that teach and encourage us in the reality of life itself.

Deborah Rau's article found in *The Plain Truth Online* states:

"While weighing sacred fiction against its more worldly counterpart, we should also consider this basic principle: a secular tale can teach a profound spiritual truth. Consider Christ's stories and parables. During his earthly ministry he used storytelling, also known as parables, as his primary teaching tool. The sacredness comes not so much from the tale itself as from the application, when the story is lifted onto a spiritual plane, when all its facets are studied through regenerated eyes.

And that's the way a Christian should read everything -- penned by a fellow believer or not."

Three examples of such literature demonstrate a variety of styles, genres and view points, yet all reveal the vulnerability of human kind, and a similar soul-searching and need for rightness and truth.

(Owen Wister, *The Virginian*).

"Of all kicking against the pricks none is so hard as this kick of a professing Christian against the whole instinct of human man."

(Leo Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina*).

"Lord have mercy on us! pardon us! aid us!" he repeated the words that for some reason came suddenly to his lips. And he, an unbeliever, repeated these words not with his lips only. At that instant he knew that all his doubts... did not in the least hinder his turning to God. "

(Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*)

"It was his duty to confess, to suffer public shame, and to make public atonement. There was a God who called upon men to tell their sins to earth as well as to heaven. Nothing that he could do would cleanse him till he had told his own sin."

And long after we've placed J.R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* back onto the shelf, the epic tale of good against evil stays etched in our minds.

"He bitterly regretted his foolishness and reproached himself for weakness of will; for he now perceived that in

putting on the ring he obeyed not his own desire but the commanding wish of his enemies."

Here is a quick look at a well known Christian author that had a very startling background. C.S. Lewis was a staunch atheist, yet he had a sensitivity to truth and the human condition. This soul-searching at last brought him face to face with ultimate Truth. In C.S. Lewis' autobiography, *Surprised by Joy*, he spoke of his conversion to Christianity as the "prodigal who is brought kicking, struggling, resentful and darting his eyes in every direction for a chance of escape." Despite his willful reluctance, his Christian walk became an example that is worthy of careful consideration.

*"Christianity was not for Lewis a suitcase into which he crammed the facts of life, cutting here and snipping there until it all fit neatly into the preconceived package... Lewis didn't find God; God found him."

I mention this potpourri of literature for one reason, to show some possibilities that help us understand and sympathize with the human condition while seeing a higher purpose that promises escape and rescue. I repeat that studying a written work, or any other work for that matter, with the wisdom and discernment God allows us, promises rich reward.

* Editors, *The Plain Truth Online*

The first two hundred pages are painfully boring. Despite the exotic setting, descriptions fall flat. Exposition abounds in the narrative and the dialog, including many details that serve no purpose in moving the story forward. Sentence structure is passive. The reader only gets to hear

about what has happened; he never gets to see any action.

The characters lack depth. The scoundrels are unrelentingly obnoxious. Since for most of the book the characters don't do much besides think

about the history of the islands and evade each other's questions, the heroine and the hero are un compelling.

When the story finally picks up two thirds of the way through the book, it is as if Chaikin has

finally determined the truth about Rebecca Derrington, Eden's mother. Hints suddenly appear. Eden becomes mildly likeable as she begins to act in a credible manner. Too bad she didn't go back and inject some life into the first two hundred pages.

Chaikin is a veteran novelist, with at least seven previous series under her belt. *For Whom the Stars Shine* is book 1 of the Jewel of the Pacific series. One can only hope that subsequent volumes will be more forceful.

Andrea R. Huelsenbeck, Freelance Writer, Tempe, Arizona

***Freedom's altar*, by Charles F. Price. LCCN 98055781. Winston-Salem, N.C.: J.F. Blair, 1999. HBB, 0895871777, \$19.95.**

F. Afro-Americans--Fiction; Reconstruction--Fiction; North Carolina--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Fiction; Historical fiction. 291 p.

The Civil War has just ended and the formerly wealthy southern Curtis family is struggling to begin again when surviving son Andy returns home to his family. Both of his brothers have died in the war and his father has made enemies of two local women, the Pucketts, whose family was wiped out by marauders set upon them by Judge Curtis to save his own kin. Former Curtis slave, Daniel McFee has also returned after fighting for the north to be near the resting place of his wife. He and the Judge struggle to work through the feelings left behind by the system of slavery and war.

The Pucketts appeal to local official, Nahum Bellamy, whose semi-legitimate group of vigilantes includes Daniel's angry stepson, Hamby. He is fighting for Negro rights, and believes that he is "God's avenging angel" to punish the Curtises for their part in the war.

Andy contacts Oliver Price to testify, since he is a witness, but Oliver hates to leave his gentle, tubercular wife, Nancy. However, he feels honor bound, and reluctantly goes to help. Upon his arrival he finds that someone in the valley is killing former Confederate soldiers.

The story moves rapidly to some surprising results as the Curtis family, Daniel McFee, and Oliver Price struggle to move on and become better people, despite the price they must pay because of the war.

Charles F. Price has based *Freedom's Altar* upon actual historical events that involved his ancestor Oliver Price. The story is an engrossing portrayal of the complex time of Reconstruction that is too little discussed. Most readers will sympathize with the finely drawn and detailed characters who must deal with the results of their life choices. The reader will also benefit from the healing power of forgiveness and self-sacrifice that is portrayed.

Teresa O'Donley, Library Media Specialist, Bayhmonte Christian School, Scotts Valley, California

***Ghost writer*, by Rene Gutteridge. LCCN 00010081. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2000. PAP, 0764223437, \$10.99.**

F. Publishers and publishing--Fiction; Ghostwriters--Fiction; Editors--Fiction; Christian fiction; Suspense fiction. 396 p.

One day Senior Editor Jonathan Harper picks up the manila envelope marked Requested Material. He notes it is addressed to him at his childhood home. Stamped across the front reads Addressee Not Known. The return address bears his name and the address of the publishing house. Jonathan pulls out the pages and begins reading *The Story of My Life*. Within the pages of *Ghost Writer*, the author Rene Gutteridge tells a tale of mystery and suspense and ultimately of the greatest love.

Jonathan Harper's career at a publishing house is dissolving. His last few books lost money for the company. His star Western writer Clyde Baxter comes out of retirement with one last manuscript, and an annoying ghost writer Francis Flowers hounds him to read his story. He barely speaks to his wife Kathy. He notices a charming attractive co-worker Sydney and they begin to flirt.

The manila envelopes continue to arrive. Someone is writing about Jonathan's life as it unfolds. The mystery person is watching his every move, even what he eats for dinner. It scares Jonathan and he fears for his safety and the safety of his family. He looks closely at the people around him. Is it Clyde? Is it God? Soon the manuscripts say he must die.

The raw emotions of a fallen man catch the reader in the throat. I found myself pulled into his depths of despair and felt his cry of anguish. Although the ultimate 'mystery' of the ghost writer ends weakly, the strong development of the character and his reestablishment with Christ makes the book worth the read.

Joanne M. Haffly, Freelance Writer, Homeschool Mother, Gig Harbor, Washington

***Heaven's road*, by Judith Pella. LCCN 00009844. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2000. PAP, 0764222791, \$10.99.**

F. Texas Rangers--Fiction; Fathers and sons--Fiction; Texas--Fiction; Christian fiction; Western stories. 331 p.

Heaven's Road opens with a flashback of Micah Sinclair as a battle between Mexicans and Texans rages in 1836. As a child he witnessed the conflict that claimed the life of his beloved uncle. This event forged a desire for revenge against the Mexicans that would not be quenched through many years as a successful soldier and then as a thief, delighting in stealing from and killing Mexicans. When the current escapade of the band of robbers goes awry, Micah comes face to face with Lucie and the beginning of a change of heart.

The path of *Heaven's Road* is not as predictable as one might assume and keeps the reader intrigued and curious about what's coming next. The resolution of Micah's heart change is not immediate and there is an unexpected twist midway through the book that will truly surprise you. Judith Pella has done an admirable job of

weaving history, relationships, and redemption into a compelling read.

Sally Kuhns, Teacher, Poulso, Washington

***Home to Harmony*, by Philip Gulley. (Harmony series; 1.) LCCN 00008520. Sisters, Ore.: Multnomah, 2000. HBB, 157673613X, \$14.99.**

F. City and town life--Fiction; Quakers--Fiction; Clergy--Fiction; Christian fiction. 219 p.

Phillip Gulley, with Garrison Keillor style, quickly draws readers into Harmony, a fictional town with familiar real-life people. Sam Gardner tells us the facts and foibles of this town where he grew up and to which he returns after time away. He unexpectedly ends up as pastor of the Quaker meeting. Some of his members aggravate Sam and everyone else, as well. Others endear themselves.

Dale Hinshaw, the leading opponent of "most everything new in Harmony," continually spouts negative comments and comes up with outlandish ideas. Dr. and Mrs. Neely refuse to sell their house to anyone who wants to paint the dining room wall behind the drapes. Bob Miles, Jr. wishes he lived somewhere else, maybe faraway in Paris. His father, Bob Miles, Sr. thinks the church should buy him a bullhorn because "... this town is a powder keg. And when it blows, you'll wish you had a bullhorn." Vinnie Toricelli tricks Ellis Hodge when he plants his mounted swordfish alongside Ellis' pond. Frank, the church secretary, "wades in and gets things done," including explaining the birds and the bees to the young people. As Billy Bundle, the world's Shortest Evangelist, drives away, Sam prays he will never return.

This satire on small town people and church life picks up on the shortcomings of God's children, even pastors: Sam and two churchmen derail themselves by spending Friendly Women Circle money to attend a ball game and drink beer while on a mission. Although Gulley illustrates how their sins finds them out, he does not deal with the situation as seriously as such a lapse deserves. Throughout the book he also paints word pictures of good-hearted, sensible folks.

Many chapters end with a solid truth. These short preachments do not intrude, but instead, they add a skillful touch. He sometimes changes viewpoints, taking readers out of Sam's head into that of other characters.

Gulley writes with restraint and humor, though some may accuse him of making fun of Quakers. *Home to Harmony*, his fourth book, causes smiles and at times, out-loud laughter.

Betty M. Hockett, Freelance Writer, Newberg, Oregon

***The island of Heavenly Daze*, by Lori Copeland and Angela Hunt. (Heavenly Daze series.) LCCN 00049977. Nashville: Word, Thomas Nelson, 2000. PAP, 0849942195, \$12.99.**

F. Historical fiction; Christian fiction. 246 p.

Heavenly Daze, a tiny island off the Maine coast, is inhabited by a small group of quirky locals—and six angels. Given the task of overseeing, protecting, and assisting the residents of Heavenly Daze, the angels are sent by God to take on human form in response to a prayer request made by the founder of the island in 1798.

The aristocratic Olivia de Cuvier and her niece Annie, whom she reared to adulthood, have harbored misunderstandings and bitterness towards each other for years. Angel Caleb serves as their "butler," and with his gentle encouragement helps them come to a point of reconciliation. Annie, a researcher, plants some experimental tomato seedlings on the island, hoping to develop tomatoes that flourish in cold weather. Her seedlings endure fierce storms, being dug up by the dog, and even some deliberate crushing on Caleb's part. Despite the damage, some are salvaged for replanting and begin to grow again. The plants become a metaphor for the fragile feelings of Annie and Olivia, and the tentative growth of their new relationship.

Island resident Reverend Wickam also has some things to learn about pride. Upon overhearing part of a conversation, he mistakenly believes himself about to be ousted from his pastorate and replaced by a younger, flashier preacher. Wickam promptly buys a toupee to cover his bald head, and plans visual aids and special effects to spice up his sermons. When all these things backfire, Wickam is humiliated, but is also brought to the realization that he simply needs to be who he is, and allow himself to be used by God.

Lori Copeland and Angela Hunt have combined their storytelling skills to create a lighthearted tale in *The Island of Heavenly Daze*. Although the plot line seems rather divided, and the angels more insignificant than one would expect, the story combines humor, reminiscent of Liz Curtis Higgs, with a serious message.

Sherril Beeler, Teacher, Cascade Christian High, Medford, Oregon

***Lord Foulgrin's letters : how to strike back at the tyrant by deceiving and destroying his human vermin*, by Randy Alcorn. LCCN 00008460. Sisters, Ore.: Multnomah, 2000. PAP, 1576736792, \$16.99.**

F. Demonology--Fiction; Good and evil--Fiction; Epistolary fiction; Christian fiction. 305 p.

There's been a reshuffling of the Powers of the Air and the new CEO, Lord Foulgrin, has taken on the oversight of Squaltaint and his assignments with vigor. Failure in Squaltaint's pursuit of the human souls under his jurisdiction is not to be considered or there will be Heaven to pay. Therefore Lord Foulgrin brings all his experience and evil genius to bear in letters to his underling, coaching him in the finer points of human weaknesses and demonic temptation. Meanwhile, John Fletcher is living the American Dream but finding that it hasn't brought him the happiness he deserves. His kids

are strangers, his wife avoids him, and the secretary at work is very responsive. Little does he know that Heaven and Hell are poised over his shoulder in a battle for his very soul.

Randy Alcorn openly admits that *Lord Foulgrin's Letters* is greatly indebted to C.S. Lewis and especially his book *The Screwtape Letters*, written during the 1940s. A comparison of the two reveals that Foulgrin is much wordier than *Screwtape*, a result, says Alcorn in his afterword, of the changes in the world since Lewis' time. In addition, Alcorn has included a narrative of the events occurring in the lives of the demon's human subjects as Squaltaint and Foulgrin work all their angles to keep them from coming to Christ. Readers who have been exposed to Lewis' original will find Alcorn's "update" disappointing and his writing style over-blown. What Lewis said so well in a few choice words, Alcorn repeats again and again in prose that neither delights nor intrigues. The human side of the story suffers from "evangelicalese" and the ring of formula piety when spiritual truths arise, a problem common to most "Christian" fiction. The demonic half of the book is overfull of invective and unnecessary asides whose only function appears to be to disgust the reader. *Lord Foulgrin's Letters*, like Frank Peretti's novels of demonic activity, is written on the premise that Christians need to be more aware of demonic attitudes and activities presenting as much of their horrific evil as can be acceptably published by a Christian press. Given that much of what passes for demonic in this book is conjecture, the reader must decide whether this is a premise he should pursue.

Pamela A. Todd, English Teacher/Librarian, Chalcedon Christian School, Cumming, Georgia

***Maire : [a novel]*, by Linda Windsor. (The fires of Gleanmara; 1.) LCCN 00009334. Sisters, Ore.: Multnomah, 2000. PAP, 1576736253, \$11.99.**

F. Women soldiers--Fiction; Ireland--History--Fiction. 355 p. (High school).

Fifth century Ireland is a land only recently touched by the light of the Gospel. It is also a land of warring clans and rival kings and is under the sway of powerful druids. In this place, two warriors, Maire the queen of Gleanmara, and Rowan of Emrys, face each other in a conflict that can only be solved through surrender instead of force of arms. Captured in a raid upon his home, Rowan, a devoted Christian and skilled warrior, agrees to marry the young, pagan queen who has defeated him in single combat in exchange for the safety of his people. Both declaring the marriage no more than political, they forge an alliance that thwarts the designs of the High King's druid upon Gleanmara and bring prosperity to Maire's people. Puzzled by his strange religion and its effects upon her husband, Queen Maire is intrigued and repelled at the same time. On his part, Rowan finds that he is falling in love with his spirited and earnest wife in spite of their

agreement and a vow he had made to God to dedicate his live to a priestly calling. When enemies strike, Rowan and Maire must come to terms quickly with their understanding of God and his claim upon their lives. In doing so, they find that victory lies in surrender to the One who does all things well.

In *Maire*, Linda Windsor does a credible job of creating the feel of ancient Ireland in her portrayal of the conflicting loyalties and treacheries of the island's rival tribes and factions. The main characters of Rowan and Maire each have a history and a calling that work upon their consciences and challenge their actions. Refreshingly, Rowan's Christian convictions are strong, but not pietistic; and his witness to his pagan wife is given in brief, pertinent moments that pique her interest rather than sermonize. Both characters grow and learn, the climax of Rowan's trial before the High King testing his more mature faith as well as Maire's new found one. The only flaw in Windsor's story is in an unfortunate decision to personify Ireland and give it the task of narrator at the beginning and end of the novel, complete with an attempt at Irish dialect and syntax whose result is stilted rather than charming. Otherwise, the story is rounded out with a very helpful glossary of terms and a bibliography of recently published works on the history of Ireland.

Pamela A. Todd, English Teacher/Librarian, Chalcedon Christian School, Cumming, Georgia

***Miss Fontenot*, by Stephen Bly. (Heroines of the Golden West; 3.) LCCN 98046369. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, WaterBrook, 1999. PAP, 1581340745, \$10.99.**

F. Montana--History--Fiction; Photographers--Fiction. 222 p. (High school).

Oliole Fontenot is a resident of the newly founded town of Cantrell, Montana. But she is not the typical homesteader. Oliole is single and a professional photographer. This independent woman does not seem to be in need of a man. She is involved in her small community and feels complete in her chosen career. Along comes a sweet-talking cowboy named Kaid. Kaid seems to fill the hole inside of Oliole that she didn't know was there. When Kaid receives a job offer in Canada and asks for Oliole's hand, she must decide if she is ready to give up her love for Montana and her independence.

Stephen Bly writes an interesting novel about the "old west" with a twist—an independent single woman. Many novels of this type have a widowed heroine, but rarely have I read about one that was single. The characters are well developed and colorful. Although this is number three in a series, it was fairly easy to follow the story line—even of previously written story lines. This quick-read novel contains some surprises and proves to be unpredictable.

Tammy Williams, Social Worker, Freelance Writer, Port Orchard, Washington

Newlywed games, by Mary Davis. (Palisades pure romance.) LCCN 99089172. Sisters, Ore.: Multnomah, 2000. PAP, 1576732681, \$6.99.

F. Mothers and daughters--Fiction; Humorous stories; Love stories; Christian fiction. 367 p. (High school).

Erroneously learning her daughter is married, Gayle Livingston miraculously recovers from a mysterious medical condition. Meghann Livingston must now invent a husband, and who better than her handsome supervisor, Bruce. Meghann feels she can pull off this little charade until Bruce appears at the wrong time and must be included in her little fabrication. Bruce and Meghann continue the lie by pretending, not only to Gayle, but also to Bruce's family. However, when Meghann and Bruce are faced with their lies, they must determine if the obstacles can be overcome so they can be really married. Humor and much soul searching ensue in this romantic tale by Mary Davis.

Newlywed Games is an entertaining love story for which two people are truly trying to live according to God's will, but are realistically human. Bruce and Meghann are Christians who have real problems from which readers can see the downfall of a snowballing lie. Humor, sadness, pain and love are all quite nicely portrayed in this contemporary Colorado hotel setting.

Connie J. Weaver, Church & Reference Librarian, Newville, Pennsylvania

Pursuit and persuasion, by Sally S. Wright. (Ben Reese mystery series; 3.) LCCN 99050894. Sisters, Ore.: Multnomah, 2000. PAP, 1576734161, \$10.99.

F. Reese, Ben (Fictitious character)--Fiction; Archivists--Fiction; Mystery and detective stories. 356 p.

In *Pursuit and Persuasion*, Ben Reese is asked by his former apprentice, Ellen Winter, to investigate the murder of her godmother, Professor Georgina Fletcher. Ms. Fletcher appears to have died of natural causes, but a mysterious letter written to Ellen the day before her death opens up the opportunity that her death was anything but natural. Ben finds, upon journeying to Professor's estate, that the possible suspects are many. Will Ben discover the murderer, or are the clues too hidden in the mysterious past?

Sally Wright's mystery is very detailed and somewhat confusing. The writings are a bit "dark" with little spiritual reference or significance. Throughout the story, there are references to Ben Reese's past, but little information to fill in the blanks. I found the incomplete story line of Ben Reese more interesting than the murder investigation. Reviews included in the inset of the book state that she writes in the style of Dorothy Sayer and I must concur as I find Sayer novels too detailed and drawn out, also.

Tammy Williams, Social Worker, Freelance Writer, Port Orchard, Washington

Refiner's fire, by Sylvia Bambola. LCCN 00008204. Sisters, Ore.: Multnomah, 2000. PAP, 1576736046, \$10.99.

F. Ambassadors--United States--Fiction; Ambassadors--Romania--Fiction; Christians--Romania--Fiction; Brothers--Romania--Fiction; Romania--Fiction; Christian fiction. 349 p.

An inspiring story with an unusual twist and enough excitement to keep you turning pages until the end of the book—what more could you ask from Christian fiction? Alexander and Yuri, Romanian twins, are separated as young children. Years later their paths cross during the brutal reign of Nicolae Ceausescu in 1980s Bucharest. Alex is an ambitious U.S. ambassador, Yuri, a Romanian officer in the secret police, and clandestine member of the Underground church. Yuri suspects Alex is his long lost brother yet hesitates to confront him with this information. A friendship with the ambassador's wife brings about changes in each of them and causes Alex to evaluate what really brings meaning to his life. When he has to make decisions regarding the lives of defectors; decisions that may not be politically correct and may cause him to lose his esteemed position, he chooses the ethical path and discovers strength and compassion that he did not know he possessed.

Besides the entertainment of a good story, *Refiner's Fire* by Sylvia Bambola should alter the thinking of readers by making them aware of what Christians in other countries have suffered and continue to suffer for the cause of Christ. This book will be enjoyed by both men and women and will be a well-read addition to any church library fiction collection.

Ceil Carey, Young Adult Librarian, Plano, Illinois



A sacred place : a novel, by Bonnie Leon. LCCN 00037864. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2000. PAP, 0805421521, \$10.99.

F. Married women--Fiction; Alaska--Fiction; Historical fiction; Christian fiction; Love stories. 310 p.

Mary, an 18-year-old Aleutian, has her heart set on marrying her absent sweetheart Paul, but her parents think she should accept the proposal of Sean, a Christian. Mary acquiesces when her father reveals to her the reason for Paul's leaving town. Sean is aware that his new bride does not love him, but he tenderly woos her, hopeful that she will come to love and trust him in time.

With the outbreak of WWI, Sean tries but is unable to join the military, accepting instead a job wintering on Unalga, an island near the end of the Aleutian chain, to trap foxes. He and Mary are dropped off by the owner of the island, believing that they are the only people there, but are surprised to find a young man named Trent already living in the cabin intended for them. They don't trust Trent even though they don't yet know that he has been poaching the foxes. Trent helps Sean trap the foxes, secretly planning to steal the pelts, but Sean is busy

focusing on winning Mary's love. The owner is unable to return with the rest of their supplies and all three begin the struggle together to survive a harsh winter with little food. Unfortunately, Trent's deceit finally leads to an open confrontation with tragic results.

A Sacred Place by Bonnie Leon transports the reader to WWI era Alaska. The constant love and patience of Sean in wooing his bride parallels the workings of the Holy Spirit upon Mary's heart. The story is fast paced and exciting and the characters are intriguing. The realistic details about Aleutian life are a fine touch and really add to the story. The themes of love, forgiveness, repentance, and what makes a truly good marriage are well done. This is a story that will stay with you.

Teresa O'Donley, Library Media Specialist, Bayhmonte Christian School, Scotts Valley, California

The sacred shore, by Janette Oke and T. Davis Bunn. (Song of Acadia; 2.) LCCN 99006839. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2000. PAP, 0764222473, \$10.99; HBB, 764222473.00, \$15.99.

F. Acadians--Fiction; Canada--History--To 1763 (New France)--Fiction; Historical fiction; Christian fiction. 268 p.

Eighteen years before, an English family had exchanged babies temporarily with a French family to secure medical attention for the French infant, but before the babies and parents reunited, the British expelled and scattered the French Acadians from what is modern day Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Little French Annie remained behind and little English Nicole fled with the French. The families lost contact with each other.

Now Lord Charles Harrow, rich and proud, makes a perilous transatlantic crossing to Halifax, searching for his estranged brother Edward and hoping to find a male heir for his English estate. Upon reaching the shore, he discovers his journey has only begun. Charles locates Edward, a village minister, living simply and peacefully with his wife Catherine and daughter Annie, who, he is startled to learn, is not a blood relative. He determines to find Nicole, his true niece.

Janette Oke and T. Davis Bunn weave Charles' quest intricately with all other characters' searches for identity or spiritual reality. Charles sails south, then treks overland to the Louisiana Bayou. But he just misses Nicole, who releases herself from a love affair, learns of her English roots, and leaves quickly to find her birth family. Struggling to know God and their need for Him, they fight for survival on the same ship through a life-threatening storm, not realizing until later that they are related. Charles learns humility, and both he and Nicole learn to pray and receive new faith. Two daughters meet and reunite with their natural mothers. The parents, Henri and Louise and Edward and Catherine, suffer emotional trauma from past memories and fear the consequences of revealed truth. Everyone

comes home to the shore, sacred to each individual because of the nature of his or her quest. The reader wonders if the story has not yet ended.

The authors pen a masterful account of people facing the storms of life and realizing they mirror the storms within them. Readers will learn that their quests begin with the voids within as they identify with characters' personal and physical sufferings, fears of rejection, and spiritual growth. In *The Sacred Shore's* historic account of the French Acadians, readers glean a deeper appreciation of the sacrifices these colonists made for all of us in the settling of our great nation.

Rhonda Marie Lackey, Writer, Substitute Teacher/Former Librarian, Tukwila, Washington

Seaside, by Terri Blackstock. LCCN 00049991. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001. PAP, 0310233186, \$12.99.

F. Mothers and daughters--Fiction; Women photographers--Fiction; Seaside resorts--Fiction; Beaches--Fiction; Sisters--Fiction; Florida--Fiction. 122 p.

How to be productive, useful, efficient—these are the things that Maggie taught her daughters. To her chagrin, they learned those lessons all too well. Unfortunately, she never taught them how to slow down, how to savor life, and how to enjoy relationships. She never taught them that wasting time isn't necessarily time wasted. Now, with cancer eating away at her body, Maggie gathers her daughters together for a week at the Florida seashore to show them how to be still, to enjoy life again, and to commune with God.

Sarah and Corinne, however, are so caught up in their family responsibilities, jobs, and volunteer work they've left behind, that they spend all their time on the phone, on the computer, and snapping at each other, resurrecting old jealousies and hurts. When Maggie reveals her illness to them, their perspective of life suddenly changes as the girls realize that the world will not fall apart without them, and that relationships are more important than lists and schedules.

Seaside, a novella by Terri Blackstock, is easily read in an hour, but this slim book contains well-developed characters; many of us will recognize elements of our own lives reflected in Corinne and Sarah. Packed with truth, this story challenges us to refocus and re-prioritize, and reminds us of the importance of a heavenward focus.

Sherri Beeler, Teacher, Cascade Christian High, Medford, Oregon

Shadow of legends : a novel, by Stephen Bly. (Fortunes of the Black Hills; 2.) LCCN 99016673. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2000. PAP, 0805421742, \$12.99.

F. Black Hills (S.D. and Wyo.)--Fiction; Christian fiction; Western stories. 212 p.

Shadow of Legends is set in Deadwood, South Dakota, during the Gold Rush. Todd Fortune is

trying to live up to the reputation his father made during his first few years in the Deadwood gulch. When the elder Fortune goes hunting and prospecting in the Big Horn Mountains of Wyoming, Todd and his family are left to cope with swindlers, stage robbers, and murderers. In addition, Todd is worried about his wife Rebecca's dissatisfaction with life in the shadows of the Deadwood gulch. He is also concerned about Dacee, his sixteen-year old sister who is quickly becoming a woman, but who rides and shoots like a man. When two stage robbers escape from custody and come back for revenge on those who captured them, the whole family gets involved in a fast-paced adventure that not only risks their lives, but also tests their faith and commitment to God's will.

Shadow of Legends follows *Under a Dakota Cross* in the Fortunes of the Black Hills series. Although reading the books in order would be helpful, *Shadow of Legends* stands by itself fairly well. It is filled with action and good Christian values. In this book Stephen Bly also demonstrates that God only expects each person to do his best, and not to try to be someone else.

Virginia E. Brown, Library Assistant/Freelance Writer/Former Teacher, Sheridan, Wyoming

A shelter in the storm, by Debra White Smith. LCCN 00064676. Eugene, Ore.: Harvest House, 2001. PAP, 0736902783, \$10.99.

F. Southern States--Fiction; Romantic suspense fiction; Christian fiction. 314 p. (High school).

Taylor Delaney, Sonsee's best friend, has just been framed for her father's murder. Believing in his innocence, and loving him with all her heart despite the fact that he does not return her love, Sonsee agrees to hide him from the police until the true killer is found. Sonsee suspects that one of her half-siblings is responsible for the murder; there has been little love lost between them, and each has much to gain from their father's wealthy inheritance—especially when Sonsee discovers an old key with a cryptic note that refers to some secret family treasure.

As Sonsee and Taylor unravel the mystery, they also unearth a number of barriers in their own lives—Taylor's fear of loving and then losing or being hurt by the one he loves, and Sonsee's revengeful and spiteful spirit toward her siblings and her father's murderer. Sonsee also learns to release her own desires for a relationship with Taylor, and to embrace a relationship with the Lord as her ultimate fulfillment.

A Shelter in the Storm is book three in the Seven Sisters series by Debra White Smith. It is the weakest book of the three, and is not especially well written. Some of the minor characters are more like caricatures—particularly the Lady Macbeth-like villain with his compulsive hand washing. The story also contains numerous contrived metaphors, and one particularly annoying sentence structure that is used to distraction throughout the book whenever conflicting emotions are mentioned. While the

character's relational and spiritual struggles are real, the murder/mystery storyline is rather unrealistic, slow moving, and relatively predictable.

Sherri Beeler, Teacher, Cascade Christian High, Medford, Oregon

Sisters of the Confederacy, by Lauraine Snelling. (Secret refuge; 2.) LCCN 00010798. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2000. PAP, 1556618409, \$10.99.

F. Overland journeys to the Pacific--Fiction; Women abolitionists--Fiction; Women pioneers--Fiction; Sisters--Fiction; United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Fiction; Historical fiction. 303 p.

Two years into the War, the Highwood family of Kentucky has been pulled apart by death and the destruction of much they had held dear. Jesselynn Highwood has promised her dying father that she will take the family wealth, their stock of blue-blooded Thoroughbred horses, to a place of safety until the depredations of war are over. Missouri had been the designated haven, but once there, Jesselynn discovers that any haven she seeks will have to be further west.

Disguised as a young man, she must find a way to keep her horses from conscription into both armies, or theft from the unscrupulous, and provide a credible shield for her now-freed slaves who accompany her in search of a new life. Between the loss and the weight of responsibility she is called upon to shoulder, Jesselynn finds that she can no longer believe in the God of her childhood.

Meanwhile, Louisa Highwood has offered her help in nursing wounded Confederate soldiers at a Richmond hospital, but the supply of much needed pain-killing morphine has run out. The only source is in Washington, D.C., the capital of the enemy. A soldier might not get through, but perhaps a woman could. Against her brother Zachary's better judgment, Louisa and he set out to acquire the medicine that will save their charges' lives. In *Sisters of the Confederacy*, both Highwood women face situations that they had never expected to encounter, Louisa with faith, but Jesselynn with bitter unbelief.

Sisters of the Confederacy continues Lauraine Snelling's *A Secret Refuge* series about the Highwood Family of High Oaks, Kentucky, examining the effects of the War Between the States on a Confederate family. *Sisters* is most concerned with Jesselynn's trek west in search of a safe place for her horses and her former slaves and her struggle with the God she no longer recognizes. Although dependent upon her as a shield against capture or prejudice, it is the witness of her former slaves/friends that shows Jesselynn the way back to faith. Snelling's story has an interesting, if rather sensational, premise, but it suffers from uneven writing, a reliance on caricature, and a tendency toward formulaic resolutions of conflicts. Specific incidents, such as Daniel's arrest and trial due to false identification, are intense and well drawn; but Jesselynn's inner conflicts are predictable and their resolutions prosaic. Most

of the book's secondary characters are little more than stereotypes, and those of the broadest sort. In short, it is a readable escape, but not a compelling or particularly accurate excursion into the past.

Pamela A. Todd, English Teacher/Librarian, Chalcedon Christian School, Cumming, Georgia

South Pacific journal, by David & Nancy French. LCCN 99020024. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1999. PAP, 0805419632, \$10.99.

F. Philippines--Fiction; Legacies--Fiction; Suspense fiction; Christian fiction. 217 p.

Jacob Levine is the very successful Jewish partner of a New York law firm. One day he receives a message that will change his life forever. His older sister Sarah has just died in the Philippines. This brings many questions to Jacob's mind, since he thought his sister had died during the Japanese invasion of the Philippines in 1941. He travels to the Philippines, where he is given her journal. As he reads through her account of what really happened in 1941, his own ideas about life and faith are challenged and changed forever.

Sarah Levine arrives in the Philippines as an ambitious young diplomat, ready to make her mark on the world. The unexpected attack by the Japanese causes her to face the worst emotional crises of her young life. Separated from the other diplomats and surrounded by the horrible realities of war, she comes to terms with her own crushing need for a savior. For herself and millions of other Jews, that Savior has not yet come. A young soldier she meets tries to convince her that He has come. But she cannot possibly believe that Jesus, whom she has been taught is the worst blasphemer ever to live, is the Savior she searches for. Or can she?

South Pacific Journal is a beautiful, poignant love story. Not a romance novel, it instead captures the tender sweetness one experiences when coming to Jesus for the first time. This picture stands in sharp contrast with the story of Sarah's flight across the war-torn island, trying to stay ahead of the Japanese army. David and Nancy French do an excellent job of describing the conditions of war without being too graphic. Even minor characters are well developed. The devastation of the refugees as they see their home destroyed is very real. The reader feels the hopelessness of soldiers who march to a battle they cannot win. The characters live in constant fear of discovery and death. Sarah's encounter with Christ set against this backdrop gives a perfect picture of the peace we have in Christ during even the worst circumstances in our lives.

Robyn Wyatt, Freelance Writer, Port Orchard, Washington

The temptation, by Nancy Moser. (The mustard seed; 3.) LCCN 00008508. Sisters, Ore.: Multnomah, 2000. PAP, 1576737349, \$12.99.

F. Christian fiction. 411 p.

In Nancy Moser's novel *The Temptation*, characters with diverse personal histories stumble into temptation while trying in their own strength to fulfill vows made to the Lord when they dedicated their lives to Him at Haven, where they had all been mysteriously invited several years before. Each one's struggle is a mini-plot within two larger ones.

Ben Cranois, bitter from former campaign work with Julia Carson—now president of the United States—succumbs to Ham Spurgeon's evil plot to assassinate her. Father Del, homeless man turned priest, collides with their sinister plan while organizing a reunion of all Havenites. Everyone's passionate, selfless devotion has cooled to lukewarm complacency and pride in self-achievement. Natalie Pasternak is tempted to give up her writing. Walter Prescott is selfish with his bonus and gloats over his successful TV program. Crediting herself for artistic success, Kathy Bauer hides treasures in her closet and longs for an expensive home. God gave Julia her talents, but now she handles things very well, thank you. When Art Graham emerges from jail he must choose whether to join in Ben's schemes. Spiritual warfare forces clash in the climax of the Reunion, with good triumphing over evil.

Third novel in the Mustard Seed Series after *The Invitation* and *The Quest*, *The Temptation* is suspenseful, yet delightful reading, built on a sturdy framework of biblical truth. The story line moves at a fast pace. Moser invites readers to chuckle and think introspectively while observing private, emotional parleys between very real people. Each chapter begins with a Bible verse appropriate to upcoming action. Replete with Scripture, the text weaves Truth into the characters' growth in their battles against temptation. The author reminds readers that God has placed them in unique circumstances in life, with unique companions and purposes to fulfill in the face of spiritual warfare.

Readers become alert to how quickly their thinking can change, how subtly they can be tempted with success, greed, or pride. They learn with the characters that they are not better people because of what they have done, but because of their relationship with God.

Rhonda Marie Lackey, Writer, Substitute Teacher/Former Librarian, Tukwila, Washington

Thunder from Jerusalem, by Bodie & Brock Thoene. (The Zion legacy; 2.) LCCN 00028994. New York: Viking, Penguin Putnam, 2000. HBB, 0670892068, \$19.95.

F. Israel-Arab War, 1948-1949--Fiction; Jews--Palestine--Fiction; War stories; Christian fiction. 311 p.

Thunder from Jerusalem—second in the Zion Legacy Series after *Jerusalem Vigil*—promises a thrilling read in historical fiction. From Bodie and Brock Thoene, authors of bestselling series *The Zion Chronicles* and *The Zion Covenant*,

the five-day saga unfolds on Wednesday, May 19, 1948. Besieged for months with a lack of food and water, Israel has just declared her independence. Jewish patriots fight against Syria and Egypt to the north and south, and against Jordanian King Abdullah's Arab Legion. Who will control the city of Jerusalem, holy to both Jews and Muslims?

Jacob Kalner has just broken through Zion Gate with eighty Palmach troops, carrying precious ammunition and medical supplies for the hospital where his wife Lori tends the wounded and dying with Rachel, wife of Moshe Sachar, Haganah Commander. Moshe knows the arrival of the Arab Legion's armored column and infantry is imminent. What he doesn't know is that American pilots coming to their aid are being tortured and killed. Nor does he know that a former Nazi SS lieutenant has infiltrated his ranks to assassinate him. An obstinate and collaborating mayor complicates matters.

The Thoene's communicate superbly the strong faith of the Jews, who "see the Almighty's hand of protection with their hearts" and know that as long as one of them remains alive, God will not break His promise to Abraham. The authors preserve the truth of the Nazi holocaust, and emphasize God's promises to save and provide for a remnant of His people.

Almost breathtaking is the authors' narrative of fierce fighting between hundreds of armed Arabs and Peter Wallich's Gadna Youth Brigade. This small teenaged band detonates buildings to block roads, and valiantly hurls petrol bombs, molotov cocktails, and grenades at the enemy. Some graphic details of violence and suffering permeate the fast-paced story. In sharp contrast, quotations from the Bible and the Amidah parallel the occasional appearance of a mysterious rose gardener, whose palms bear large scars, and who encourages characters on their spiritual journeys. A few Old Testament prophecies (i.e., Daniel) are clearly explained.

Thunder from Jerusalem, a timely novel for both Jews and Gentiles, is a gripping tale of wartime adventure, historic truth, pain and heartache, romance, and spiritual strength. Readers will understand that the true eternal battle is about faith in God, and will wait eagerly for the next installment, *Jerusalem's Heart*.

Rhonda Marie Lackey, Writer, Substitute Teacher/Former Librarian, Tukwila, Washington

Where freedom grows, by Bonnie Leon. (Sowers trilogy; 1.) LCCN 98015558. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1998. PAP, 0805412727, \$12.99.

F. Russian-Americans--Fiction; Brothers and sisters--Fiction; Immigrants--Fiction; Russia--Fiction. 310 p. (High school).

In fields of freedom, by Bonnie Leon. (Sowers trilogy; 2.) LCCN 98048985. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1999. PAP, 0805412735, \$12.99.

F. Russian-Americans--Fiction; Brothers and sisters--Fiction; Immigrants--Fiction; Russia--Fiction. 309 p. (High school).

Harvest of truth, by Bonnie Leon. (Sowers trilogy; 3.) LCCN 99045733. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2000. PAP, 0805412743, \$12.99.

F. Russian-Americans--Fiction; Brothers and sisters--Fiction; Immigrants--Fiction; Russia--Fiction. 309 p. (High school).

Tatyana Letinov and her brother Yuri live on a small farm in the Russia of 1930. They don't own much but life is good. Their parents, extended family, and neighbors form a close bond where God is honored. Into their lives comes Stalin.

Where Freedom Grows follows the horrors, atrocities, and terror of living under Stalin's regime. All are dealt with realistically and not softened to make a "nice" story.

Shortly after Tatyana's parents are taken from the farm by Russian troops, Yuri convinces Tatyana that she must try to escape to America. Alone and afraid, Tatyana catches a train for Leningrad where she can board a ship sailing to America. It is dangerous to talk to strangers or to admit a belief in God, especially since NKVD men (Stalin's agents) are everywhere. On the ship one of Tatyana's cabin mates is Flora, an older Russian woman going to live with her sister in New York. Tatyana and Flora get through the inspection on Ellis Island and finally meet Flora's sister, Augusta. Beside Augusta is her son, a large, blond man named Dimitri.

Meanwhile Yuri lives on his uncle's farm. But here too there is no escaping the soldiers, and soon Yuri and his uncle are forced into the back of a truck with other prisoners. Instead of a prison, Yuri finds himself getting out of the truck near a forest. A group of the prisoners are marched away and soon the sound of rifle fire breaks the silence.

The first seven chapters of *In Fields of Freedom* are devoted to Tatyana and Dimitri. Seeking a new job in the depression era isn't easy. But Dimitri has been accepted by a logging company in Washington State. He heads west promising to send for his bride, Tatyana as soon as possible. A voided timber order cancels Dimitri's promised job. Then he learns that the coal mines are hiring. The danger Dimitri faces when working in the mine is multiplied for Tatyana when she becomes pregnant.

In Fields of Freedom picks up Yuri's story where he has just entered a prison complex where there seems to be no escape. His faith has all but deserted him. Then he meets Alexander, imprisoned because he was caught teaching a religious class. Yuri faces starvation, isolation pits dug in the frozen ground, and the haunting fear that God has forsaken him. While he and Alexander are being transferred to another prison, a train wreck sets them on a 2000 kilometer trek across Russia.

Harvest of Truth finishes the story of Yuri and Tatyana. This third book in the trilogy does not keep the same fast-paced action as the first two. Yuri joins his old friends from the underground

and begins handing out Scripture portions. His promise to Tatyana to join her in America weighs heavily on him so he makes the decision to get false papers and try to leave Russia. Tatyana struggles with her desire to return to her homeland. She wants her child to understand his heritage. She unrealistically believes she would be returning to a pre-Stalin Russia she remembers from her childhood. Problems are solved by returning to a strong faith in God and the help of fellow Christians.

Bonnie Leon shows the struggle of keeping one's faith amidst the evil of a communist government. Her characters are believable. Even those who, because of their strong faith, work in the underground do not take the danger lightly.

This trilogy will be enjoyed best by reading the books in order as number two and three pick up where the previous book leaves off. The life style of 1930's Russia includes the drinking of vodka and other liquors. Smoking a pipe is treated as a pleasant past time, and dancing is the way to celebrate when people get together. A glossary in books two and three help to identify some of the Russian words.

Myrtlemary P. Crane, Freelance Writer & Editor, Alderwood Manor, Washington

Wind : a novel, by Calvin Miller. LCCN 00010472. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2000. HBB, 0764223623, \$11.99.

F. Homeless families--Fiction; Brothers and sisters--Fiction; Pennsylvania--Fiction; Christian fiction. 159 p.

This enchanting sequel to *Snow* continues the story of the lives of the inhabitants of King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, during the Great Depression. It is the spring of 1929 and spring is blowing in from the east. To Isabel McCaslin, considered the town looney by her married brother Peter, this portends not only the end to a cold winter but to "good news" being on the way.

The wind "blows" Otto Mueller and the indigent Pitovsky family her way. The relationship between Isabel and Otto deepens and he helps her to view herself and others from a different vantage point. But Otto has a secret adopted daughter, as well as trying to recover from personal wounds and financial woes himself. Meanwhile Otto's mother Ingrid and Isabel work surreptitiously on behalf of the Pitovskys whom the miserly Peter is trying to throw off his property.

Calvin Miller proves once again his genuine giftedness as a master storyteller. Isabel and Otto are flawed but appealing personalities who not only develop a new strength of character but who change in fundamental ways. The unfolding interpersonal relationships catch one's attention and carry the reader along for an enjoyable ride. The only disappointment is that one has to wait until later this year for the story to continue in the sequel, *Summer*.

Teresa O'Donley, Library Media Specialist, Bayhmonte Christian School, Scotts Valley, California

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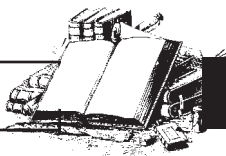
Wings of refuge, by Lynn Austin. LCCN 99051018. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2000. PAP, 0764221965, \$11.99.

F. Women--Israel--Fiction; Israel--Fiction; Christian fiction. 397 p.

Abigail MacLeod is taking a trip of a lifetime. She is participating in an archeology dig in Israel, and fulfilling a life-long dream. Leaving behind a marriage destroyed by infidelity, Abigail believes that she will leave her problems behind in America and find distraction for her pain. When her fellow passenger, a friendly Jewish man, is murdered in the airport and dies in her arms, Abigail begins a journey that she could never imagine. The novel is full of intrigue and history as well as the theme that God's love heals all wounds.

Lynn Austin, in *Wings of Refuge*, weaves together three different lives, from different times, into one compelling story. Reading it, one marvels at the ability of the author to draw all the threads together in an exciting conclusion. Although the novel contains some violence, it is presented in a low key manner that is not disturbing. I look forward to any publications Ms. Austin may have in the future, as her writings are one of the best in this genre.

Tammy Williams, Social Worker, Freelance Writer, Port Orchard, Washington



000's—Generalities

Connecting kids and the Internet : a handbook for librarians, teachers, and parents; 2nd ed., by Allen C. Benson and Linda M. Fodemski. LCCN 99016424. New York: Neal-Schuman Publishers, 1999. PAP, 1555703488, \$49.95.

025.04. Internet (Computer network) in education--Handbooks, manuals, etc.; Internet (Computer network)--Study and teaching--Handbooks, manuals, etc.; Education--Computer network resources. 398 p. book and CD-ROM.

Connecting Kids and the Internet is a comprehensive handbook designed to assist adults in directing children through high school in the use of the Internet for school and for fun. Among the subjects covered in this book are safety-passwords, protection from viruses, and filtering software for computers accessible by children. Activities for younger children, and fun and learning activities for all ages, are followed by more advanced activities for teens

which include UNIX shell accounts and telnet and ftp activities. Several chapters end with a list of resources, some include lesson plan ideas. The final section includes the text of fourteen lesson plans dealing with web addresses, evaluating web sites, bookmarking, copyright, e-mail addresses, mailing lists, creating web pages, etc.

Benson and Fodemski are educators who have worked with K-12 children on Internet projects. Their well-designed handbook is loaded with information for the beginner and more advanced Internet surfer. Although both Internet Explorer and Netscape are described, many of the black-and-white screen shots are from Netscape. The index does not refer to all of the many web sites discussed in the text, but the accompanying CD-ROM includes in "The Link Farm" annotated listings of web site addresses (Uniform Resource Locator, URLs) in twenty-eight different categories. The CD-ROM may be

accessed through a web browser, and if the browser is connected to the Internet, clicking on these URLs connects directly to the Internet web site. The CD-ROM also includes the text of the fourteen lesson plans, with their Internet URL links. As the Internet changes, many addresses change, and more gopher and ftp sites are moving to the World Wide Web. The Library of Congress new web-based Voyager catalog now provides advanced online searching.

Donna W. Bowling, Library/Educational Consultant, Dallas, Texas

Going online @ home : how to make the Internet a family activity, by Ken Reaves. LCCN 00030346. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2000. PAP, 080542136X, \$14.99.

025.04. Internet (Computer network)--Handbooks, manuals, etc.; Online data processing--Handbooks, manuals, etc.; Microcomputers--Handbooks, manuals, etc. 322 p.

In *Going Online @ Home*, Baptist pastor Ken Reaves presents a simple, down-to-earth

A Note from the Editor: by Ray Legg



Renewed Vigor

I am in the midst of an interesting time in my life. No, it is not a mid-life crisis or anything disastrous like that—I plan those to coincide with the yearly vacation to the Outer Banks of North Carolina—going wind surfing and the like (this year, a student who lives near, wants to teach me to surf! That should be interesting!). No, what makes this time interesting is that I am rediscovering reading. For some unexplainable reason, I find myself

drawn to the printed word with renewed enthusiasm. That may not seem strange to those of you who know I am a teacher, but it is. There came a time during which, precisely because I was a teacher, that reading lost its appeal. It was part of the job. Things are different now.

I am not sure why it has happened. Maybe I have been out of school long enough to look at books as entertainment, adventure, and the like rather than texts for a course. Maybe my confidence in my skill as a professor is increasing, or maybe it's the effect of the passage of time—who knows? What is sure is that I have books open everywhere: in the office, at home, in my briefcase—everywhere. And during class the students must endure the rabbit trails I get off on as I share connections between stories I have read. My hope is they will catch

some of my enthusiasm and want to read the materials for themselves.

As I write this, my attention is drawn to a poster displayed in my office which I got at the Civil Rights Institute in Birmingham, Alabama. It depicts the major figures responsible for bringing about the Harlem Renaissance. On it are musicians, artists, and writers, some of whom I have not read or seen or heard before, but who, because of the enthusiasm I feel of late, I will know soon. And many of whom the students will get to know as we interact in and out of the class. Who knows? Maybe some of them will actually want to go to the library to discover these people for themselves. Maybe they will catch a renewed vision for reading for themselves. Maybe we all can help them catch that vision through our enthusiasm.

introduction to the Internet geared to Christian families. Beginning with basic terms, he lays out criteria for initial selection of computer hardware and software, and then Internet Service Providers (ISP) to get connected to the Internet. Safety—protecting personal privacy, protecting children from inappropriate content, and protecting the computer from viruses—is the first major topic. Other sections provide simply expressed detailed instructions on browsing, e-mail and mailing lists, searching online, downloading and updating, and communicating, and joint activities with family and friends.

The layout is comfortable and the text is easy-to-use, with wide margins, a number of pull-out lists, and frequent black-and-white screen shots throughout the book. Illustrations include both Netscape and Internet Explorer screens. Although Reaves makes passing reference to Apple's Macintosh, he consistently assumes PC equipment with MS Windows software.

He describes and recommends many web sites within the text. (He also mentions that the Internet is constantly changing, and some of his Internet addresses have already changed.) Although this book is geared to the newcomer to the Internet, several hints along the way reward the more experienced reader. Appendices include additional terms and a useful classified listing of more than 300 Web sites to visit (URLs—Uniform Resource Locators), including many specifically Christian sites. Includes a few bibliographical end notes and a skeletal index. Accompanying free CD-ROM provides access to LifeWayonline, an ISP affiliated with the Southern Baptist publisher.

The Christian focus of this book will appeal to many and it is more appropriate for the beginning Internet user than the more comprehensive *Connecting Kids*.

Donna W. Bowling, Library/Educational Consultant, Dallas, Texas

100's—Philosophy & Psychology



Endangered minds : why children don't think—and what we can do about it, by Jane M. Healy. LCCN 00266956. New York: Touchstone, Simon & Schuster, 1999. PAP, 0684856204, \$14.00.

155.4'1315. Learning, Psychology of; Learning--Social aspects; Learning--Physiological aspects; Neuropsychology. 384 p.

"Kids' brains must be different ...," she remarked as she graded student essays. After several years of examining results of cutting edge brain research and many conversations with teachers, educational psychologist Jane Healy has documented factors she thinks have contributed to the differences in student thinking that teachers have noticed in more recent years. In *Endangered Minds*, Healy points to several of those factors related to children in the areas of language-related learning, sustained attention, and problem solving. Beginning with the

plasticity of the brain, and the impact that environment has on its development, she addresses the way language influences how children think. Lifestyles in the home and the school climate affect and are affected by children's learning disabilities and attention difficulties. Modern cultural features such as video games and TV (even Sesame Street) may divert the developing child's brain away from the analytical and reflective thinking skills needed in schools. Healy writes that even some school practices may be counterproductive to meaningful learning.

In this wake-up call for parents and educators, Healy warns against potential hazards to children's developing brains. Among them are toxic substances and foods, noisy environments, sedentary lifestyles, and attempts by adults to force "learning" on children who are not developmentally ready. She balances those with positive suggestions for parents and teachers, pointing out the value of physical play for growing brains and the necessity of conversation with adults to foster thought, imagination, empathy, and reflection. When *Endangered Minds* was originally published in 1990, Healy received the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Educator's Award. The 1999 edition has a new introduction with a progress report on current research and changes in the culture, plus a reading group guide at the end of the volume. Includes extensive bibliographical end notes and index. [See also in this issue Healy's *Failure to Connect*.]

Donna W. Bowling, Library/Educational Consultant, Dallas, Texas

200's—Religion

Eerdmans dictionary of the Bible, David Noel Freedman, editor-in-chief; Allen C. Myers, associate editor; Astrid B. Beck, managing editor. LCCN 00056124. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2000. HBB, 0802824005, \$45.00.

220.3. Bible--Dictionaries. 1425 p.

More than just an update of the *Eerdmans Bible Dictionary* (1987), the *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible* has been totally revamped, using 600 contributors from all over the U.S. and a few other countries as well. All the main denominational perspectives are considered. The 3000 entries cover the Old Testament (including the Apocrypha) and the New Testament. Many terms not found in the Bible are covered if considered important to Bible study such as Trinity, Gnosticism, and Apostolic Fathers.

Reflecting the latest scholarship in many areas, previous Eerdmans' users may be surprised at what has changed. For example, the concept of Gnosticism is now defined somewhat differently than what many of us have been taught. Some entries, such as the one on Hell, may seem a bit academic, but are still understandable. By academic, I mean that the Greek and Hebrew words are used repeatedly and the language is abstract. The inside cover has a Transliteration

and Pronunciation chart opposite The Archaeological Periods of Palestine on the first page. On the review copy, these are also on the inside back cover and last page, only upside down.

To promote additional understanding of biblical events and concepts, there are twenty maps, most in color; limited bibliographic works cited after some of the definitions; and a few photographs.

Robert M. Lindsey, Associate Library Director, Hannibal-LaGrange College, Hannibal, Missouri

Treasures in the Psalms, by Henry M. Morris. LCCN 00102652. Green Forest, AR: Master Books, 2000. PAP, 8910512981, \$13.99.

223. Psalms; Bible. O.T.--Psalms. 406 p.

Henry M. Morris, author of numerous books and founder of Institute for Creation Research, wrote *Treasures in the Psalms* to share blessings he's experienced from studying Psalms. He views the psalms as "far more than mere devotional poems for pious reading." Thus, he offers a scholarly verse-by-verse exposition of selected psalms and incorporates entire passages from the King James translation for those discussed.

Not a quick read, this meaty but understandable resource covers half the psalms and is divided into nine parts. Each part groups psalms by theme rather than numerical order. Morris begins with the message and method in the Psalms followed by themes such as prophecies of Christ in the Psalms and events of His Second Coming. One section discusses the thirteen Maschil Psalms that provide instruction, encouragement, and guidance while another portion relates to areas of the Christian life such as prayer and faith. Morris skillfully includes background information and new insights and links verses from Psalms with other Bible verses. Chapters 54-59 of the commentary, covering psalms of encouragement and blessing, were written by his oldest son.

Known as an advocate for biblical creationism, Morris' strong view is evident throughout the book. For example, when remarking on Psalm 139:13-18 that discuss the creation of the human body, Morris writes, "The absurd notion that such a marvelous organism could have developed slowly over the ages by random process of evolution is a graphic commentary on man's desire to escape from God at all costs."

Beloved psalms such as the 23rd and 100th are included. The reference concludes with triumphant thoughts from Psalm 150 and other psalms of praise. Believers who wish to deepen their understanding of Psalms will appreciate this volume. Although more of a commentary than devotional book, it makes a useful companion when reading Psalms.

Lydia E. Harris, Freelance Writer & Educator, Seattle, Washington

When you pray : making the Lord's prayer your own, by Philip Graham Ryken; with discussion questions by Nancy Ryken Taylor. LCCN 00009759. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, WaterBrook, 2000. PAP, 1581341946, \$12.99.

226.9'606. Lord's prayer--Criticism, interpretation, etc.; Spiritual life--Christianity; Prayer. 206 p.

Associate minister of preaching, Philip Ryken (Heart of the Cross) has devoted this entire book to one prayer: The Lord's Prayer. Ryken writes that The Lord's Prayer is the most perfect prayer available to anyone since Jesus gave it to us. Discussion is on each phrase and sometimes on one particular word in this perfect prayer.

The first three chapters cover praying like a hypocrite, praying like an orphan, and praying like God's child. Basically, when we pray we should: go into a private space, keep the prayer simple and pray to our Father in Heaven. The remaining ten chapters are exclusively dealing with the individual phrases of The Lord's Prayer.

When You Pray can be read by new Christians, mature Christians, or those who just wish to learn about prayer. Ryken does challenge the term trespass being used in The Lord's Prayer rather than the term: debt/debtors. The book has an index and footnotes. The research material used ranges from Puritan days to contemporary authors, although the author uses the "Westminster Shorter Catechism" predominately. At the end of each chapter are discussion questions that could be used during a Sunday School lesson or a book discussion group.

Connie J. Weaver, Church & Reference Librarian, Newville, Pennsylvania

Who do you say that I am? : when Jesus is not who you think, by John T. Seamands. LCCN 99086118. Kansas City, Mo.: Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City, 2000. PAP, 0834118513, \$15.99.

232. Jesus Christ--Person and offices. 151 p.

Who is Jesus? The answer to this question is the foundation upon which Christianity rests, and is as vital today as when Jesus walked the earth two thousand years ago. Wesleyan scholar and former missionary to India John T. Seamands guides readers in taking a fresh look at Jesus in *Who Do You Say That I Am?*

The book is divided into three parts, the first discussing the Person of Jesus. Seamands explores passages of scripture that examine Jesus' personality, his beliefs, his role in each of the major Christian doctrines, and how others in the gospels responded to him, making an important note that it was not man's claim that Jesus is the Son of God, but Jesus' himself. The second and third sections of the book deal with the parables and miracles of Jesus, respectively. Seamands takes a sampling of some of the more widely known parables and makes each an outlined message in and of itself. He does the same with four of Jesus' miracles, bringing to

light how certain details of each story are crucial in demonstrating spiritual truths we can apply to our lives today.

There are several poignant anecdotes, some taken from personal experience, others from history, that add another dimension to the books clarity and effectiveness. Two chapters which discuss who Jesus is in the author's own life combine to form a gentle personal testimony that is neither preachy nor emotional, but based strongly on biblical principles about Jesus' saving power. The subtitle seems to be extraneous, however, as it doesn't necessarily speak in depth about the assumptions that are held about Jesus' nature and character, nor is it necessarily aimed at those with preconceived notions about one of the most controversial figures in human history. That aside, the book is eminently readable, thought-provoking, and accessible to both the believer and the not-yet-believer. Anyone, whether a casual reader or serious Bible student, is sure to come away with a full picture of a real Person and a better understanding of who He can be in their lives.

Denise Griffin, Freelance Writer, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Atonement : your appointment with God, by Derek Prince. LCCN 00031786. Grand Rapids: Chosen Books, Baker, 2000. PAP, 0800792777, \$11.99.

232'.3. Atonement. 223 p.

In the first section of *Atonement*, Derek Prince presents necessary background information on atonement. In the Old Testament the sacrifices offered on the Day of Atonement covered the sins of the people for a year. When Christ offered himself on the cross He took away sin. For all who have accepted His sacrifice there is no further sacrifice for sin. Prince points out that the basic human problem is sin and the cure is atonement. He points out that it is not necessary to commit a terrible crime to sin. We sin when we fail to give God his rightful place in our lives.

Prince emphasizes the importance of putting the cross back in our lives and our churches. The rest of the book deals with three questions. What does the cross do for us? What does the cross do in us? How do we appropriate practically what God has already done through the cross? Although we are sanctified when we believe, sanctification is also progressive. As the cross is revealed we come closer to God.

Included in the text are nine exchanges that happened when Christ was crucified in the second part. Jesus was punished that we might be forgiven, He was wounded that we might be healed, and He was made sin that we might be made righteous, are three of the exchanges. Part three explains the five deliverances made possible by the cross. The final section deals with how to appropriate what God has provided through the cross.

The style of this book is clear and systematic. All points are accompanied with numerous

scripture references. At the beginning of each new section he carefully reviews the previous points. An informative well written book on a topic not well understood by many Christians.

Barbara Bryden, Freelance Writer, Olympia, Washington

Listening carefully to Jesus, by R.E.O. White. LCCN 99086144. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2000. PAP, 0802843972, \$12.00.

232.9'54. Jesus Christ--Words; Jesus Christ--Teachings. 108 p.

Baptist minister, R.E.O. White (Night He Was Betrayed) intends *Listening Carefully to Jesus* to be read by new Christians. Jesus was a multi-faceted man and this book invites the reader to become more familiar with our Lord and Savior. Some of the chapters included are: Jesus the teacher, Jesus on the Old Testament, Jesus on salvation, Jesus' idea of the Church, Jesus on the place of women in religion and society, Jesus in a racist climate, Jesus on himself, and Jesus on the future.

Although only 108 pages in length, this book is not an easy read. The in-depth topics must be carefully read so as not to miss any of the well researched points. The book clearly is evidence of the author's scholarly knowledge. However, a new Christian may have trouble following all the biblical examples and theological points that are being discussed.

Connie J. Weaver, Church & Reference Librarian, Newville, Pennsylvania

The Jesus conspiracy : an investigative reporter's look at an extraordinary life and death, by Gordon Thomas. LCCN 99048307. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2000. HBB, 0801011949, \$17.99.

232.96'2. Jesus Christ--Trial; Jesus Christ--Passion. 297 p.

One of the tragedies of many older studies on Jesus' life was the failure to place Jesus within the religious, cultural, and political world of first century Palestine. *The Jesus Conspiracy* helps to correct this deficiency. Thomas uses extensive historical information from ancient writers like Tacitus, Seutonius, Josephus, and Cicero to describe the lives of gospel figures such as Tiberius, Herod Antipas, Pontius Pilate, and Caiaphas. He then uses a significant dose of pious imagination to weave Gospel stories about Jesus into this historical background.

Thomas is to be commended for his extensive historical research and for placing Jesus squarely in his first century Jewish setting. His book is interesting and makes the story of Jesus come alive. Negative aspects of the book are relatively minor but should be noted. First, although much of Thomas' historical background is reliable, he sometimes makes use of sources that most scholars would consider historically unreliable. This makes for interesting reading but footnotes would have been helpful to inform the reader when the

events portrayed in Thomas' book were dependent solely on these apocryphal sources.

Second, some of Thomas' reconstructions or conclusions would be historically questionable to many Jesus scholars. Examples include the idea that Jesus was born in 12 BC and the suggestion that Pilate may have been a secret Christian who thought he was performing a service for Jesus by having him crucified. Particularly troubling to evangelical scholars may be the idea that the gospel stories cannot be trusted with regard to their portrayal of Judas.

Third, *The Jesus Conspiracy* is a revision of a book Thomas wrote in 1987 called *The Trial*. While the introduction makes reference to recent works in the field of Jesus studies, the bibliography that Thomas says he relied on for his study of Jesus, contains nothing written after 1985. A significant amount of historical Jesus research has occurred since 1985.

For those interested in an imaginative historical reconstruction of Jesus' life, Thomas book is recommended. For those who want the historical background to Jesus' life without the fiction or the occasional reliance on questionable sources, I would recommend *Jesus and the Rise of Early Christianity* (IVP, 1999) by Paul Barnett.

Dennis Ingolfsson, University Librarian, Bryan College, Dayton, Tennessee

Into the depths of God : where eyes see the invisible, ears hear the inaudible, and minds conceive the inconceivable, by Calvin Miller. LCCN 00008429. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2000. HBB, 0764221728, \$16.99.

248.4. Spiritual life--Christianity. 249 p.

Delving into the depths of who God is, and who we are in him, is the challenge presented by author Calvin Miller. This is not an easy road to take because it goes against the flesh and requires discipline. Yet the rewards of discovering how to rest in God's presence are peace and a quietude of soul that are far more desirable than our usual hurried, hurried lifestyles. Perhaps the greatest discovery in this discipline is the ability to draw nearer to God and experience a closer, deeper fellowship with the Lord. "Prayer... a trek for those who walk between worlds."

Into the Depths of God promises a wealth of blessings if the reader is willing to lay down self and search the fathomless bounty of having an intimate relationship with God. Miller's statement summarizes the heart of this book. "Life in Christ is the only life built from heaven earthward and from the inside outward."

For the reader yearning for more of God, this book will take you on a thought-provoking journey that challenges lifestyle and commitment, and unveils a glimpse into the inner sanctuary where God dwells.

Mary McKinney, Former Teacher, Freelance Writer, Editor, Port Orchard, Washington

Making Jesus Lord : the dynamic power of laying down your rights, by Loren Cunningham; with Janice Rogers. Seattle: YWAM Publishing, 1988. PAP, 1576580121, \$8.99.

248.7. Christian life. 156 p.

Making Jesus Lord is a call to Christian Service, and above all else, evangelism. In this book, Cunningham details highlights from the origins and history of Youth With A Mission (YWAM) and the vignettes are used to illustrate the needs for world and local evangelism, and the means by which Jesus enables His "Super Lambs" to fulfil the Great Commission.

Throughout the book, co-writer Janice Rogers details God's Providence and Provision in the lives of people who share only one thing in common: a desire to be obedient to God's will and direction in their lives. Again and again, the sub-title of the book, *The Dying Power of Laying Down Your Rights*, is echoed in the faith and obedience of ordinary men and women. Of course, anyone who truly gives themselves over to God's will and purpose cannot remain ordinary.

Making Jesus Lord includes a study guide and could easily be adapted to a small group or evangelism class. Its purpose and points are obvious and undeniable for anyone who goes by the name of Christ. The text lacks a linear flow. Dynamic illustrations come and go without a driving theme or pattern of thought to tie them together. At the end of the book, the reader will find it difficult to walk away with a single, clear idea from the text.

Still the words burn in the heart. What have I given over to Christ lately? What have I relinquished for His purpose? Am I willing to lay down my rights, so that He can have His? I pray that readers are up to the challenge of serving an eternal Lord.

Kirk Hunt, Instructor, Pima County Community College, Business & Industry Division, Tucson, Arizona

Teach your children well, by Don S. Otis. LCCN 00021687. Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell, Baker, 2000. PAP, 0800757238, \$12.99.

248.8'45. Children--Conduct of life; Children--Religious life; Child rearing--Religious aspects--Christianity; Child rearing--Moral and ethical aspects; Moral education; Moral development. 191 p.

Should I be my child's best friend, or merely police his/her life? Is there any way to simplify parenting? How do I help my children to make lasting connections with God?

Don S. Otis approaches these and other questions concerning child rearing from his personal experiences as a dad of three sons. He sets out guidelines for biblical parenting and points out that God's truths are simple, not complex. Spending both quantity and quality time with our kids is not an option but a necessity. We need to find ways to work with our kids to build courage and conviction to prepare them for the daily struggle against the

cultural flow of disposable lifestyles. Parents need to be living examples to their kids of what God expects of His followers. What our children see us do will make a much bigger impression on them than what we tell them they need to do. Where there are no clear limits, or 'fences,' the word 'no' may mean 'maybe' or even 'just don't get caught.' Confusion chips away at stability, so it is urgent that we build a firm foundation, early, in our children. There are consequences for our actions. Bad choices consistently bring about penalties; whereas good choices should consistently produce rewards. Balance between mercy and discipline is crucial to the process of healthy character development. We need to teach kids to feel good about doing right.

In his book, *Teach Your Children Well*, Don S. Otis reminds the reader of the grave importance God attaches to raising children. Though the tone tends to be a bit preachy at times, there is much sage advice given by one who has obviously been in the throes of child rearing. These basic concepts would be most useful in a group study.

Kim Harris, Librarian, Newman Riga Library, Churchville, New York

Arts, entertainment, and Christian values : probing the headlines that impact your family, Jerry Solomon, general editor. (Probing the headlines.) LCCN 99043118. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 2000. PAP, 0825420436, \$10.99.

261.5'2. Mass media--Religious aspects--Christianity; Christianity and culture. 191 p.

In *Arts, Entertainment, and Christian Values* is a series of articles which pose some challenging ideas for the reader who wants to understand the impact that Christians should have on their culture. Beginning in chapter 1, readers are told, "Fill your mind with biblical precepts; be careful that you don't respond to the surrounding world with cultural biases; be interactive but not accommodating; develop a positive, revolutionary mind-set; and glorify God in all of life."

These are not easy directives to fill. Solomon and his fellow authors point out questions and solutions that may help those who want to try to impacting their society. Part 1 is a general overview of philosophical questions and comments and includes chapters such as Christians and Culture, Culture Wars, and The New Absolutes. In Part 2, the authors become more specific, covering such leisure activities as Art and the Christian, Music and the Christian, Television and the Christian, and The Games We Play.

Part 1 may be a bit dry, but for anyone who has ever wondered if rock and roll music is inherently ungodly or argued with other Christians about what if anything to do about television and video games in the Christian home, Part 2 is fascinating reading. What is more, it is bound to spark some interesting

discussions as readers find themselves driven to share parts of it with the people with whom they share their lives and living spaces.

All in all, the authors' ideas about arts and entertainment and where they all fit into Christian lives may be a bit controversial, but readers are sure to come away with a lot to think about.

Betty Winslow, Librarian, Bowling Green Christian Academy, Bowling Green, Ohio

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***O worship the King : hymns of assurance and praise to encourage your heart, by John MacArthur...[et al.].* LCCN 00009490. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, WaterBrook, 2000. HBB/CDR, 1581342152, \$19.99.**

264'.23'09. Hymns--English--History and criticism. 126 p. + 1 CD-ROM.

In *O Worship the King*, John MacArthur, Joni Eareckson Tada, and husband/wife team Robert and Bobbie Wolgemuth have come up with a book that lives up to its subtitle, Hymns of Praise and Assurance to Encourage the Heart. The book covers twelve of the most loved hymns of the Christian church (among them A Mighty Fortress Is Our God, It Is Well With My Soul, and Be Thou My Vision) and it includes a fully orchestrated CD of the book's hymns.

The chapter for each hymn begins with that hymn's words and is followed by stories about it from three different angles. At the Heart of the Hymn is personal testimony by one of the authors about that hymn's effect on his or her life. In the Light of the Word covers the theological viewpoint and scriptural references contained in the hymn, while >From Out of the Past briefly tells the life story of the man or woman who wrote the hymn.

Songs in the Night, another book about the inspiring stories behind famous church hymns, was written by Salvation Army Colonel Henry Garipey and covers many more hymns than this one does. However, with the inclusion of the words, music, and CD, *O Worship the King* allows readers and listeners who were unfamiliar with the chosen hymns to come away with a new appreciation for the music and the message.

Betty Winslow, Librarian, Bowling Green Christian Academy, Bowling Green, Ohio

***The power of extraordinary prayer, by Robert O. Bakke.* LCCN 00025256. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, WaterBrook, 2000. PAP, 1581341547, \$10.99.**

269. Prayer meetings; Prayer groups--Christianity; Prayer--Christianity. 191 p.

The Power of Extraordinary Prayer starts with the description of a current era "Concert of Prayer." The first chapter gives the case for, and results of, prayer in the modern era. Author Robert Bakke supports his call with examples from Scripture. The text quickly rolls the clock

back to 1735 and a call to prayer issued by Jonathan Edwards. Chapters two and three give a thorough accounting of prayer history since 1935. Three appendices, extensive notes and an exhaustive bibliography give evidence of the preparation and care that went into this text. Chapter four is a call for prayer in the current era. Working through individuals, small groups, and large assemblies, Bakke explains how prayer is the precursor and sustaining engine of God's saving movement in any time or place.

Power is first and foremost a history book. The text leads a reader through amply documented and proofed accounts of prayer's effects among men and women. At times the book captures the excitement and glory of these sovereign moves of God among mere mortals. Much of the time, the history lesson overshadows the drama of lives coming to Christ, or the majesty Christians united in His presence.

Most readers looking for a strong argument for beginning or expanding prayer at home or in the Church will be well advised to go directly to chapter four. The over-riding need, reasoning, and call to prayer is there. The excitement and power of drawing close to the Savior also resides in that chapter.

Anyone desiring to see God's Kingdom advance should consider chapter four carefully. And spend time on their knees, speaking with their King.

Kirk Hunt, Instructor, Pima County Community College, Business & Industry Division, Tucson, Arizona

***History of Christianity, video series written and presented by Dr. Timothy George; guide prepared by Denise George and staff of Christian History Institute.* Worcester, Pa.: Christian History Institute, Vision Video, 2000. KIT, 1563643391, \$79.99.**

270. Christian church--History. 2 videocassettes (90 min. ea.) : sd., col.; leader's guide, program scripts, student workbook.

Comprised of six video presentations of approximately twenty minutes each, *History of Christianity* offers viewers a cursory, unbiased survey of the history of the faith from the early church fathers to the International Congress on World Evangelism in the early 1970s. Included in the package of materials is a leader's guide, a student workbook, and a booklet containing all the video scripts. The six video "lessons" in *History of Christianity* are divided into six time periods covering periods of varying length. The host, Dr. Timothy George of Beeson Divinity School, gives a brief overview of the conditions of the time and then presents the major figures from each, explaining their contributions and impact on the church as the viewer is shown portraits, religious art, or movie clips portraying those people or events being discussed.

History of Christianity is a good introduction to church history, hitting the major events and introducing the most important figures from the ascension of Christ until the middle of the

twentieth century. It will be best used if the leader presenting the series has a more extensive knowledge of the subject than provided in the "Background Briefing" in leader's book, but those briefings are well organized and provide guidance to the novice for further reading. The discussion questions are varied and touch on everything of importance which the videos introduce. The student workbook also contains questions to guide the viewer in his understanding of each lesson's content and offers the added bonus of a page of original source material for each time period. Also helpful and interesting are the timelines at the end of each lesson which list significant events occurring during that time period. Both the student workbook and the leader's guide end with an annotated list of the 100 most significant events in church history from A.D. 64 to 1976. The presentation and production values of *History of Christianity* are good, if somewhat unimaginative, and Dr. George is quite personable. When all its resources are used to their fullest, these videos can give the attentive student a good, basic knowledge of the history of the faith.

Pamela A. Todd, English teacher/Librarian, Chalcedon Christian School, Cumming, Georgia

***The legacy of sovereign joy : God's triumphant grace in the lives of Augustine, Luther, and Calvin, by John Piper. (The swans are not silent; 1.)* LCCN 00020679. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, WaterBrook, 2000. HBB, 1581341733, \$17.99.**

270'.092'2. Augustine, Saint, Bishop of Hippo; Luther, Martin, 1483-1546; Calvin, Jean, 1509-1564. 158 p.

John Piper's *The Legacy of Sovereign Joy* covers a lot of ground in a few pages. Augustine saw God's grace as "sovereign joy," hence the title. Piper does not hide the flaws in the men he covers. Rather, he uses their weaknesses, as they did, to glory in the grace of a God who overcomes. The chapters are basically biographical sketches that Piper uses to illustrate how each man perceived God's grace and how it was exemplified in their lives. Adapted from a series of lectures delivered at a pastors' conference, *The Legacy of Sovereign Joy* is an interesting and thorough discourse on the doctrine of grace.

After demonstrating how Augustine laid the ground work for the Reformers, he moves on to Luther, an Augustinian Monk, and then proceeds to Calvin. Piper shows how the study of the Word became Luther's focus while the preaching of the Word was Calvin's passion.

This is the first book in the series *The Swans Are Not Silent*. The name of the series comes from the humble pastor that took over after Augustine. He said, "The cricket chirps, the swan is silent." Also from Reformation forerunner Jan Hus, who said before he was executed, "Today you are burning a goose; however, a hundred years from now you will be

able to hear a swan sing..." which many interpret as a prophetic reference to Luther.

Some may find the author's tendency to repeat himself (almost word for word sometimes) disagreeable. In such a slender volume, one would think this is unnecessary, even if it does come from a series of talks. However, one such minor complaint in no way negates the many excellent insights that are covered in this issue.

Robert M. Lindsey, Associate Library Director, Hannibal-LaGrange College, Hannibal, Missouri

300's—Social Sciences

***Kids, classrooms, and contemporary education : probing the headlines that impact your family*, Don Closson, general editor. (Probing the headlines.) LCCN 00035726. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 2000. PAP, 0825420342, \$10.99.**

306.43. Church and education--United States; Moral education--United States; Education--Social aspects--United States. 191 p.

As a homeschooling parent and an enrichment teacher in the local school district, I was eager to read *Kids, Classrooms, and Contemporary Education*. Unfortunately, the title promised something different from what it delivered. The book is divided into two parts: "Contemporary Issues" and "Education Issues." The first section contains eight chapters prepared by different authors affiliated with Probe Ministries (of which Don Closson is Director of Administration). These chapters do indeed cover contemporary social issues: abortion, environmentalism, human cloning, teen drug abuse, and more. They read like a collection of well-positioned articles by experienced writers, and as such, are interesting in and of themselves. The weakness, if any, is that the authors in this first section do not relate their chosen topics to the book's overview of "kids, classrooms, and contemporary education," nor do they mention any news stories related to each.

The second section is more directly related to the book's title, written entirely by Don Closson. His chapters include worldviews and education, education reform, public, private, or home education, and others, including a discussion on outcome-based and self-esteem curricula. This second half is strong indeed, with Closson's clear writing backed by statistics and other verifiable facts. If you wrestle with arguments between whole-language vs. phonics, or values clarification vs. character building in classrooms, this book is for you. Closson also explains in very clear language the differences in outcome-based education goals, dividing them into two categories: traditional (focused on course content) vs. transformational (focused on issues, attitudes, and behaviors). This chapter alone is worth reading the book.

A Judeo-Christian worldview is presented throughout and is laid as the challenge facing parents of school-aged children who may be exposed to other views or philosophies.

Unfortunately, you won't find discussions or even references to news stories such as the teen who strangled her baby in a bathroom so she could attend the prom, or any of the recent school shootings, although these are headlines that clearly impact families and dovetail with chapters on abortion and violence. Detailed end notes include sources for statistics or quotes appearing in each chapter.

Kimm Swenson Gollnick, Writer, Speaker, & Teacher, Marion Independent Schools, Marion, Iowa

***The ultimate guide to homeschooling*, by Debra Bell. LCCN 00022580. Nashville: Tommy Nelson, 2000. PAP/CDR, 0849975751, \$24.99.**

371.04'2. Home schooling--United States--Handbooks, manuals, etc.; Home schooling--United States--Curricula--Handbooks, manuals, etc. 431 p. + 1 computer laser optical disc: Windows 95, Windows NT, Mac OS 7.5.

Using humor, facts, and experience, author Debra Bell makes a compelling case for homeschooling your children. The text includes an enormous amount of advice, direction, and illustration on the specifics of educating young people. If a new homeschool were being formed, this book and a Bible, would be the first resources to use.

This book has the advantage of multiple editions. 1997 and 2000 editions have obviously allowed growth and refinement of the material. Cartoon icons lend visual appeal and quick clarity to the material and recommendations. The even-handed, in-my-experience approach lends a credibility to the work.

Homeschoolers (and others) can use this book with confidence. A CD-ROM of the book text and a recent version of Netscape Navigator, takes full advantage of computers and the internet for obtaining additional information on almost any subject in the work.

This book is valuable to all families who are considering the question of homeschooling. While her family has obviously been successful, Bell does not sugar-coat the financial, social, and workload realities of homeschooling, and she does not expect that everyone can, or should, homeschool. She is a thoughtful proponent, not a judgmental fanatic.

Much of her advice and recommendations can also be applied to students in public or private schools. Many of the resources in the text are immediately useful to any parent who wants to make sure their kid gets the best education possible.

Kirk Hunt, Instructor, Pima County Community College, Business & Industry Division, Tucson, Arizona

***The guidance manual for the Christian home school : a parent's guide for preparing home school students for college or career*, by David and Laurie Callihan. LCCN 00036004. Franklin Lakes, N.J.: Career Press, 2000. PAP, 0156144526, \$22.99.**

371.04'2. Home schooling--United States; Christian education--United States; Universities and colleges--United States--Entrance requirements; Vocational guidance--United States. 262 p.

Using many examples from their own lives as homeschoolers, authors David and Laurie Callihan have constructed a "paper guidance counselor" for those who have chosen an alternative route to educating their children. In practice, they have put a valuable resource into the hands of Christian families everywhere. Whether they are in public, private, or home schools, Christian kids are living an "alternative" lifestyle and deserve every godly advantage they can get.

This work is intended for launching a student immediately into work, or through the additional education provided by a college. It still carries a great number of "tips, tricks or tweaks" valuable in current school work. The earlier a parent gets and uses this text in regard to their own children, the more valuable it will become.

The text is written in an accessible manner and is focused in making its points. It covers a tremendous number of topics and subjects, giving both prescription and description for making it a reality where you are. This gains additional importance, since traditionally non-academic subjects such as hospitality and dating are addressed in the material.

A few changes would help to make a strong work even better. The text could afford to come with a CD-ROM, or other computerized media, because of the great number of actual or potential web links referenced in the text. While Scripture is used to begin every chapter, additional Bible verses could be used to illustrate or support some of their conclusions. Another suggestion would be to publish a second version of this work specifically for non-homeschooled Christian students. Any parent who cares about their child's education can find benefit in this work.

Kirk Hunt, Instructor, Pima County Community College, Business & Industry Division, Tucson, Arizona



***Failure to connect : how computers affect our children's minds--and what we can do about it*, by Jane M. Healy. LCCN 98024971. New York: Touchstone, Simon & Schuster, 1999. PAP, 0684855399, \$14.00.**

371.334. Computers and children; Computer-aided instruction. 350 p.

Every aspect of the environment impacts the development of the child's growing mind. In today's culture, technology is ordinarily a major part of that environment. In recent years, educational psychologist Jane Healy has studied children using computers in schools and in their homes. In *Failure to Connect*, Healy reports on exciting, positive uses of computers with children, as well as disturbing, potentially harmful uses. Positive programs and software

are age-appropriate and foster the development of reflective thinking and creative problem-solving skills. Mere fancy graphics or intense excitement, as vehicles for a superficial layer of information or a lower level drill and practice activity, do not meet these criteria. If children spend too much time at the computer, even with useful educational programs, at the expense of time for other more worthy activities geared to their developmental level, it can inhibit stimulation of important connections within their brains.

In spite of her earlier enthusiasm for the potential of educational computer use, Healy's extensive anecdotal report details possible risks—physical, social, emotional, as well as mental—from excessive or inappropriate computer use by children. Because much current "research" is flawed, she calls for solid research in this area. Drawing on the way the brain develops its neural connections as the child grows, Healy advocates physical play and language interaction with adults as more valuable for preschool children than computer activities. She endorses the recommendation that elementary children spend no more than one or two hours of screen time (TV and computer) per day. Applying the principle of language interaction she advocated in *Endangered Minds*, she encourages adults to discuss with children what is happening during their computer activities. Healy presents age-appropriate types of computer software and activities for children through high school. This timely wake-up call for parents and educators includes suggested reading, end notes, index, and reading group guide.

Donna W. Bowling, Library/Educational Consultant, Dallas, Texas

500's—Natural Sciences & Mathematics

***Creation, evolution, and modern science : probing the headlines that impact your family*, Ray Bohlin, general editor. (Probing the headlines.) LCCN 00035734. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 2000. PAP, 0825420334, \$10.99.**

576.8. Evolution (Biology); Creationism; Evolution (Biology)—Religious aspects—Christianity. 192 p.

Creation, Evolution, and Modern Science is full of details to help the Christian family understand the current scientific culture regarding creationism and Darwin's theory of evolution. Author Ray Bohlin is well-qualified—holding a B.S. in zoology, an M.S. and Ph.D. in molecular and cell biology; coauthor of the book *Natural Limits to Biological Change*; and named a 1997-1998 Research Fellow of the Discovery Institute's Center for the Renewal of Science and Culture. He's also published several journal articles. In spite of these academic credentials, Bohlin remembers his audience and writes in a way that reaches the average reader. He presents the information in four parts: 1) The Different Faces of Evolution; 2) Intelligent Design; 3) Evolution and Society; and 4) Evolution and the Bible. In Part 1, we

read about the five crises in evolutionary theory, documented fossil fraud, and Bohlin's critique of a book by a popular evolutionist. Part 2 continues the commentary on other books, both by Christian scientists and secularists, perhaps to enlighten us on what these books have to say on this complex subject. Part 3 is a brief but well-done section on sociobiology, which "explores the biological basis of all social behaviors, including morality (p.112)," and the Pope's view of evolution. Part 4 includes "How to Talk to Your Kids About Evolution and Creation" in a question-and-answer format between Ray Bohlin and his wife, Sue.

Subjects include natural selection, racial differences, cavemen, dinosaurs, Noah's flood, Genesis 1, the problems with evolutionary theory, and lots more. The book concludes with an overview of the debate by Christians on the age of the Earth, explaining the three prevailing schools of thought—a young-earth creation in which the universe is less than 10,000 years old; a day-age creation in which the six creation "days" were thousands, millions, or billions of years long; and theistic evolution, a theory that life and the universe evolved in God-ordained processes in nature. An additional view not mentioned by Bohlin but which deserves consideration is presented in *The Age of the Universe: What are the Biblical Limits?* by Gorman Gray (ISBN 0-9655942-0-3), posing the theory that God created the universe at some unidentifiable time in the past (Gen. 1:1), and spent six days preparing life on Earth (Gen. 1:2-31). Overall, however, this book by Bohlin is extremely helpful, offers lots of facts, and all sources are listed in the end notes.

Kimm Wenson Gollnick, Writer, Speaker & Teacher (Marion Independent Schools), Marion, Iowa

600's—Technology (Applied Sciences)

***The new hide or seek : building self-esteem in your child*, by James Dobson. LCCN 98027744. Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell, Baker, 1999. HBB, 0800717600, \$16.99.**

649'.1'019. Self-esteem in children; Child rearing. 234 p.

Hide or Seek, Dr. James Dobson's classic best-seller first published in 1974, has been revised, updated, and released as *The New Hide or Seek*. "This book is dedicated to the proposition that all children are created worthy and must be given the right to personal respect and dignity," writes Dobson. He sees inferiority as a big problem in our society and offers strategies for parents and teachers to develop self-worth in children.

Written with warmth and passion, the book is divided into three parts. Part one discusses the epidemic of inferiority and the false values of beauty and intelligence used to measure human worth. Part two develops comprehensive strategies to build self-esteem in children from infancy onward, with particular emphasis on helping teens develop self-worth. Part three

focuses on self-esteem problems in adults plus six methods used to cope with self-doubt and personal inadequacies. In the final chapter, Dobson states the most valuable contribution parents can make "is to instill in the child a genuine faith in God." Nothing can bring greater ego satisfaction than knowing the Creator of the universe knows and cares about him or her.

Combining spiritual and psychological insights, this resource brims with wisdom and practical help to raise self-confident children. Examples and illustrations make it interesting and easy to read. Chapters end with questions and answers pertaining to topics covered. End notes are included.

This new edition reorganizes the content of the earlier book without renumbering the strategies. Thus, readers may be confused, as I was, to find strategies eight and ten missing. Evidently this is a publishing error. Nonetheless, parents and teachers will benefit from this helpful, much-needed book. It belongs in every home, church, and public library.

Lydia E. Harris, Freelance Writer & Educator, Seattle, Washington

***When your child is 6 to 12*, by John M. Drescher. LCCN 93023558. Intercourse, Pa.: Good Books, 1993. PAP, 1561480940, \$8.95.**

649'.124. Parenting; Parent and child; Child psychology. 96 p.

***Your child 6 to 12 : your last great chance*, by John M. Drescher. Worcester, Pa.: Gateway Films, Vision Video. VID, 1563644207, \$24.00.**

649'.124. Parenting; Parent and child; Child psychology. 1 videocassette, 112 min., color.

Your Child 6 to 12 by John M. Drescher is full of folksy, anecdotal humor while providing much needed practical advice on the nurturing of children the middle years. The volume is divided into six sections. The first section is about the important ways parents can have input into kids that will probably not be available later such as instilling values and reading aloud. The second section covers the characteristics of middle childhood, what makes those years special, and what traits are common to children of those years. Part three deals with imitation and how to be a better role model which is followed by a discussion on conscience, always an important area of concern for the Christian parent. Next, the book takes a look at developing dependability in children, which is followed by preparing children for the teen years.

The video very much parallels the book with the author addressing a room full of young parents. The main points appear as bulleted subtitles on the bottom of the screen. Drescher has an pleasant presentation that is easy to follow. His memorable stories illustrating his points are gems and those viewing/reading will find themselves repeating many of them. This is an excellent resource for parents with children in

middle childhood or for those about to have children enter those years. It would also be a good teaching tool for small groups.

Teresa O'Donley, Library Media Specialist, Baymonte Christian School, Scotts Valley, California



***Parenting the wild child*, by Miles McPherson. LCCN 00009925. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2000. PAP, 0764223704, \$11.99.**

649'.153. Parent and teenager--United States; Problem children--United States; Parenting--Religious aspects--Christianity. 185 p.

Many Christian parenting books seem to assume that, if parents do everything right, the results will always be godly kids. This overlooks sin, nature, and free will and can also cause Christian parents of rebellious children to look at their own behavior for answers, instead of to God. Miles McPherson's book, *Parenting the Wild Child*, does not make this assumption.

McPherson states that his purpose is to encourage parents to realize that their children's troubles are the direct result of being engaged in, and possibly losing, a spiritual battle based on well-designed lies, aimed not only at their children, but also at the parents themselves. He wants to expose the lies and provide help to fight the battle, and his book does just that, from the subtitle that sets the tone, to the appendices that end the book by listing all the lies covered in the book.

Chapter by chapter, McPherson deals with lies that are aimed against both rebellious children and their parents, discusses behavior that may result from them, and salts each discussion with appropriate scriptures. He then asks searching questions such as "Are you praying for a change in your child's behavior, or for his or her faith in God?" Comparing rebellion to cancer, he ends each chapter with 'chemo-prayers' that come against the lies already discussed.

Most parents occasionally need to be reminded that prayer and God's Word are their most valuable child-rearing tools. However, for parents who face, every day, rebellious, ungodly behavior in their children, and who struggle with fear and hopelessness and confusion, *Parenting the Wild Child* could be a life-saver.

Betty Winslow, Librarian, Bowling Green Christian Academy, Bowling Green, Ohio

900's—Geography, History, & Biography



***Bonhoeffer : agent of grace*, produced by: D. Judson, K. Krause, R. Nielson, G. Pfander, K. Rittig, C. Stehr, A. Thies; director of photography: Sebastian Richter; original music by Claude Desjardins and Eric Robertson; directed by: Eric Till. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, Vision Video, 1999. VID, 0800632753, \$29.99.**

921 (272.092). Bonhoeffer, Dietrich, 1906-1945--Drama; Christian martyrs. 1 videocassette (90 min.): sd., col. (High school, middle school).

The true story of the final years in the life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, renowned German theologian and author. As the story opens, Bonhoeffer, who is already celebrated for his writings, most notably *The Cost of Discipleship*, is traveling in the United States. His friends urge him to remain but he feels that God is calling him to return to his native Germany to make a stand against the Nazi party and its part in the war raging in Europe.

Immediately upon his return, the Gestapo are harassing him and ordering him not to teach or write anymore. Bonhoeffer, because of his international standing, is induced by a friend to work with a secret department in the German military. But instead of helping the German cause, Bonhoeffer and the other conspirators are smuggling Jews out of the country and are involved in a doomed plot to assassinate the Fuhrer.

While in jail awaiting trial and execution Dietrich has a crisis of conscience and must struggle with how a believer justifies deceit and civil disobedience even in a "righteous" cause. In the depths of his despair he finds usefulness through ministry to others and a kind of peace as he realizes that God is bigger than his boxes and that the Father is not only full of unending mercy and compassion but is a true fountain of peace and rest.

This is an extremely thought provoking story—well told and well acted. Even the most mature believers will want to examine themselves and throw themselves humbly on the mercy of an omniscient and gracious Lord. Would also be a wonderful film to watch with middle schoolers and up to discuss not only the issues mentioned above but what it is to truly be a disciple and to give your life for Jesus.

Teresa O'Donley, Library Media Specialist, Baymonte Christian School, Scotts Valley, California



***Rachel's tears : the spiritual journey of Columbine martyr Rachel Scott*, by Darrell Scott and Beth Nimmo with Steve Rabey. LCCN 00710235. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2000. PAP, 0785268480, \$12.99.**

921 (277.3'0829'092). Scott, Rachel (Rachel Joy); Biography; School violence; Youth and violence. 181 p.

Rachel's Tears by Beth Nimmo and Darrell Scott is a book that centers on the journal writings of Rachel Scott, one of the Columbine shooting victims. Only seventeen when she died, Rachel's life reflected her middle name of Joy, for she was a happy, loving person who embraced life. The title comes from one of Rachel's drawings—a rendering of her eyes with a stream of thirteen tears cascading down on a rose. As her parents recovered Rachel's journals, some many months of the shooting, they discovered Rachel somehow sensed this

was to be her last year on Earth. This book is a moving account Rachel's spiritual journey as witnessed through her journal entries. The book intertwines parental agony with joyful discovering. That discovery was how deeply committed Rachel was to God. She died expressing her belief in God.

In the book's forward, Rachel's father writes of how he believes Rachel has a powerful message that survives her tragic death. And her message does need to be heard by everyone. What is that message: that message is hope. There is hope in Christ.

Pam Webb, School Librarian, Sandpoint, Idaho

***John Woolman : quintessential Quaker, 1720-1772*, by David Sox. LCCN 99017820. Richmond, Ind.: Friends United Press, 1999. PAP, 0944350437, \$24.95.**

921 (289.5'092). Woolman, John, 1720-1772; Quakers--United States--Biography. 148 p.

David Sox, quoting from Harold Loukes, says "John Woolman has been described as 'the purest and sweetest flowering of the Quaker spirit' ... " *John Woolman: Quintessential Quaker* puts flesh on that statement. Woolman's "well-honed" conscience empowered him to take firm stands against slavery, war, paying taxes to the military, and cruelty to animals. He preached fair treatment of Indians, as well. On his journey to England, where he died in 1772, he took pity on the young seamen. Woolman noted their surroundings as "unspeakably bad, and their habits were coarse and brutal beyond belief." Living with them he gained the seamen's confidence.

Not a solitary prophet, Woolman "worked within the framework of Quaker organization and discipline," and became noted as their spokesman. He gained a fine reputation as a tailor, tradesman, orchardist, and schoolmaster while traveling extensively. His speech in 1758 opened wider the door to freeing slaves.

Sox takes a scholarly approach, quoting often from Woolman's journal and also from other Woolman biographers. He documents his resources. An index helps locate specific people and places. He puts Woolman's life into the context of life at that time while also connecting with other contemporaries, such as William Penn. Diverging from John Woolman, Sox closes his book with a chapter about his own ancestor, Daniel Boone.

Betty M. Hockett, Writer/Speaker/Teacher, Newberg, Oregon

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