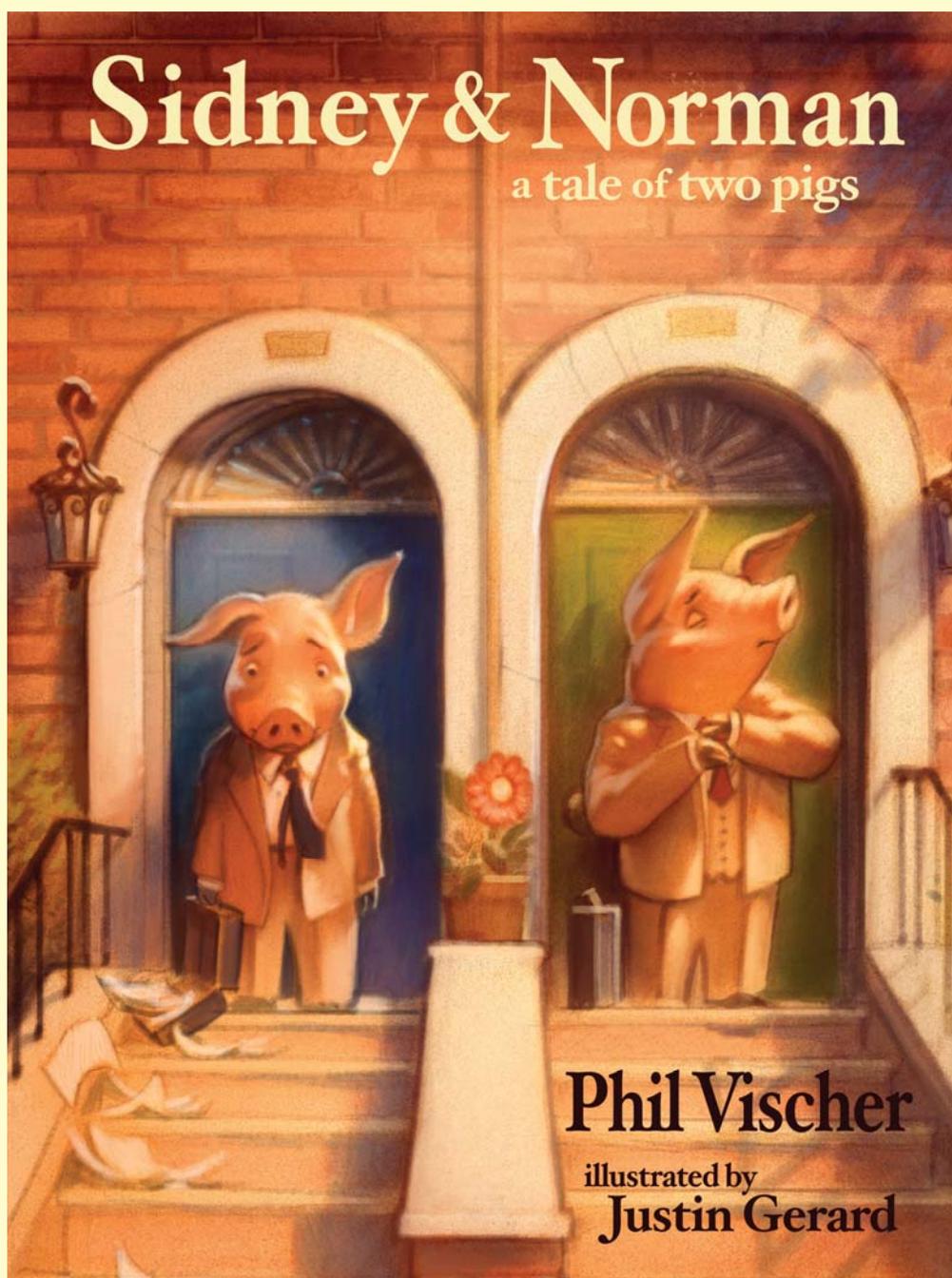
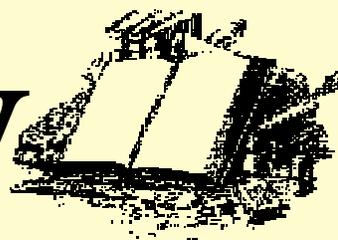


Christian Library

J O U R N A L

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The purpose of the *Christian Library Journal* is to provide readers with reviews from a Christian point of view of both Christian and secular library materials for the Christian reader. Materials reviewed may reflect a broad range of Christian doctrinal positions and do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the *Christian Library Journal*.

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More Book Lists, Part 3

by Donna W. Bowling

The Preacher reminds us that “Of making many books there is no end” (Eccl. 12:12). This article reviews several new or updated book lists that can help us deal with this continuous onslaught of publications. Like the book lists discussed

in parts one and two of this series [*CLJ 10*, 1:51-54 (Mar. 2005); and *CLJ 10*, 2:2-5 (Jun. 2005)], these book lists are designed for the general market. Because individual selection criteria vary, prudent buyers may want to personally preview titles recommended in these sources--and other sources as well. Annotations may not reveal potentially troublesome content. So, caution is appropriate, “In all cases, discernment is necessary when selecting for Christian young people from among titles recommended by professionals with varying worldviews.”

[However, before discussing these books, just a brief mention of a recent listing of children’s books from a Christian perspective that appeared in *World* magazine in December 2006. “Books that show, books that tell,” by Susan Olasky. *World 21*, (46): 19-25 (Dec. 2, 2006). In this article, Olasky asks more than 20 favorite *World* writers who are “discerning readers” to select their five favorite picture books and their five chapter books. These writers suggested around 300 favorite titles. For each writer or couple, Olasky gives some brief biographical data. Entries are limited to author and title, without further bibliographical information. At the end of her article, the author has appended two additional lists of 50: “Classic 20th-century Children’s Books from ‘The nifty 50’” reprinted from *World*, July 1, 2000, and “Reader-recommended Books from ‘50 more nifties’” reprinted from *World*, Dec. 9, 2000. Each of the

“nifty 50” lists is divided into picture books and chapter books. Understandably, the 300 responses Olasky has compiled overlap considerably with each other, and with the two “nifty 50” lists. (E.g., Margaret Wise Brown, C.S. Lewis, and J.R.R. Tolkien are each listed more than five times.) This worthy article is available online (or in print through interlibrary loan.)

New Book Lists

Books every child should know : the literature quiz book / Nancy Polette. LCCN 2005030841. Westport, Conn. : Libraries Unlimited, 2005.

PAP, 1591583543, 9781591583547, \$35.00.

x, 149 p. ; 22 x 28 cm.

Adult (All ages). Rating: 4.

In *Books Every Child Should Know*, Nancy Polette offers a variety of reproducible puzzles and games to stimulate familiarity with important titles in the field of children’s literature. The main topics are: Mother Goose, Aesop’s fables, Greek and Roman myths, folktales and fairytales from a variety of countries and ethnic groups, plus sections on the classics, fantasy, and Caldecott and Newbery winners. Among the different types of activities included for each topic Polette provides word searches, cryptograms, stories with hidden titles, and library scavenger hunts, as well as more routine true-false, matching, multiple choice, and fill-in-the-blank quizzes. These are designed to be used as games, not tests, and answer keys are provided. Following each section is a bibliography of related titles, including author, illustrator, publisher, and date information. The bibliographies for the Caldecott and Newbery Medal winners are complete through 2005. Nearly 400 book titles appear in the bibliographies at the ends of the various sections, including more than 200 titles in the sections on traditional tales. Furthermore, the quizzes and answer keys include over 200 additional titles, most with bibliographic information. The majority of these additional titles appear in keys to the stories with hidden titles from various Newbery authors. Others appear in quizzes on classics, fantasy, and Newbery Honor books. The bibliographies for the classics and fantasy

sections also provide brief descriptive annotations of a sentence or two.

Professor Nancy Polette has written widely to stimulate children's reading. She has designed this book "to help busy teachers and librarians implement either introductory or culminating activities for any genre of literature." Each page is reproducible "for classroom and educational programs only" and carries the appropriate copyright information at the bottom of the page. The individual puzzle items are generally inviting. However, a few items among the "title games" (decode by replacing words with synonyms) can be confusing. Especially, the clue for "water" is "One Part Hydrogen and Two Parts Oxygen" [p. 118], rather than vice versa. In addition to serving as another useful list of "important titles" in the field of children's literature, this book offers activities that could appeal to individual children, teenagers, parents, and other interested adults. Although it lacks an index, it is quite useful. Definitely recommended for public and Christian school teachers and librarians.

The big book of children's reading lists : 100 great, ready-to-use book lists for educators, librarians, parents, and children / Nancy, J. Keane. LCCN 2006007470. Westport, Conn. : Libraries Unlimited, 2006.

PAP, 1591583349, 9781591583349, \$35.00.

xiii, 270 p. : ill. ; 22 x 28 cm.

Adult. Rating: 4.

The big book of teen reading lists : 100 great, ready-to-use book lists for educators, librarians, parents, and teens / Nancy, J. Keane. LCCN 2006017627. Westport, Conn. : Libraries Unlimited, 2006.

PAP, 1591583330, 9781591583332, \$35.00.

xi, 297 p. : ill. ; 22 x 28 cm.

Adult. Rating: 4.

Nancy Keane's *The Big Book of Children's Reading Lists* and *The Big Book of Teen Reading Lists* are two more titles from Libraries Unlimited that consist mostly of reproducible pages intended for "educational and classroom

use." With similar formats, each includes around 100 subject bibliographies of one or more pages. Many of these bibliographies are divided into two sections by possible interest level. Within the bibliographies, entries are arranged alphabetically by author, and include title, publisher, date, pagination, and where appropriate, the code (NF) for non-fiction books. Each entry includes a descriptive sentence annotation. Following the 100 annotated bibliographies are several pages of reproducible bookmarks, printed two to each page. The bookmarks are headed with phrases like "If you liked ____, try:" with a popular book title or topic inserted in the heading. Each of these headings is followed by a short list of additional recommended titles. The indexes include authors, titles, and subjects from the annotated bibliographies. A number of the titles listed on the bookmarks are not included in the annotated bibliographies, or in the indexes.

The *Children's* listing is divided into three major parts. Part 1: School subjects, constitutes more than half of the book. The section on Language Arts includes a number of lists of folklore from various geographical areas and ethnic backgrounds. This emphasis on diversity is also found in the Social Studies section, which includes culture and customs from various areas. Other school subjects are Science, Math, and Art. Part 2: Character and values, is the shortest part, with only 11 bibliographies. Part 3: Genres and themes, includes various types of books under Genres, such as ABC books, pop-up books, wordless books, etc. The section on Themes includes several lists on holidays and various sports. Lists divided by level suggest for "all ages" or for "ages 8-12." Titles on the bookmarks are arranged alphabetically by title, followed by author.

The *Teen* book of bibliographies is divided into six major parts. Part 1, Genres, includes one bibliography headed "Clean Romance." Among the headings in Part 2, Characters, are "Fantasy Sheroes" and "Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Trans-

sexual, and Questioning.” Part 3, Books About Self, deals with a number of problems confronted by some teens—for example, “Search for Identity” and “Life in the Fat Lane: Books About Food Issues for Teens.” Part 4, Setting, may be the most specifically related to the curriculum, with lists of fiction and non-fiction titles about historical periods and geographical areas. Part 5, Subjects, includes a mixed bag of topics, from “Ecowarriors” to “Vampires.” Part 6, Audience, has lists for read-aloud and reluctant readers, as well as both fiction and non-fiction “Books That Changed the World.” A table of contents for the 100 book list titles is available from the Library of Congress online catalog at <<http://www.loc.gov/catdir/toc/ecip0614/2006017627.html>>. Some of the 100 bibliographies are subdivided by level into books for ages 12-15 and books for older teens. Titles on the bookmarks are arranged alphabetically by author, followed by title.

Author Nancy J. Keane is a middle school Library Media Specialist who hosts her own book-talk web site. She acknowledges a number of other specialists who have contributed to these two books. Her emphasis is on titles published within the past ten years, although some older titles are included “if they are still in print and are too good to miss.” There is relatively little overlap between Keane’s *Children’s* listing and Polette’s mostly “oldies but goodies” titles (see above); fewer than 70 titles are duplicated. Even in Folklore, an area both Polette and Keane emphasize, there is little redundancy. Keane’s *Children’s* includes many more topics of current interest than Polette’s book. Keane’s *Teen* listing is broader in scope than Silvey (see below), although equally open in selection philosophy. Keane includes over 200 titles also found in Silvey’s 500 listing and more than 80 additional titles in Silvey’s “Beyond the 500” listing. When compared with Hunt and Hampton’s more conservative *Honey for a Teen’s Heart* [CLJ, 7, (2/3):10-12 (2002)], more than 90 titles appear in both theirs and Keane’s *Teen* book. Keane’s *Children’s* book has many reproducible pages that might be useful in Christian schools after careful examination for content. Because of the controversial nature of many of the topics

in Keane’s *Teen* book, all titles suggested in the *Teen* book should be considered on an individual basis. Individual titles on the reproducible pages may fall outside of Christian school selection guidelines. Because of the scope of their lists, Christian school librarians and teachers, as well as other interested adults, should be aware of the content of both of the Keane books. As finances permit, both are definitely recommended for Christian school librarians and other interested adults.

500 great books for teens / Anita Silvey. LCCN 2006003350. Boston, Mass. : Houghton Mifflin, 2006.

HBB, 0618612963, 9780618612963, \$26.00.

xiv, 397 p. : ill. ; 22 x 28 cm.

Adult. Rating: 5.

In *500 Great Books for Teens*, author Anita Silvey reflects new trends in books for young adults in her selection of more recent titles. More than half had been published within the last ten years. The 500 hundred books in this annotated bibliography are grouped into 21 alphabetically arranged categories: adventure and survival; autobiography and memoir; edgy, trendsetting novels; fantasy; graphic novels; historical fiction; horror, ghosts, Gothic; humor; information; many cultures, many realities; mystery and thriller; plays; poetry and poetic novels; politics and social conscience; realistic fiction; religion and spirituality; romance; science fiction; short stories; sports; war and conflict. At the beginning of each section, Silvey gives a short introduction to the nature of the genre and includes some key titles in its history. Within these topics, entries are arranged alphabetically by author and include title, publisher, date, pagination, interest level, and if relevant, major award received. The author describes her lengthy annotations, “Each essay presents the basic plot or story line and some of the issues raised by the book; on occasion, I mention the controversies surrounding the book, its publishing history, or a sense of the ideal use for the title.” Following the annotated bibliography, she adds several other shorter listings. “Beyond the 500: Additional Titles of Interest” adds a section on “Classics” among the nearly 400 additional

titles arranged by her earlier categories. "Books by Geographic Location" and "Books by Historical Time Line" list, in their appropriate subsections, books from among the 500 annotated titles. "Recommended Audio Books" divides by interest level some of those titles available in audio format. The general index includes authors, titles, and subjects for the 500 annotated titles, but not those in the "Beyond the 500" listing.

Professor Anita Silvey is a highly respected expert on children's literature. A former editor of *The Horn Book Magazine*, a leading periodical in the field, she also authored *100 Best Books for Children* and edited *The Essential Guide to Children's Books and Their Creators* [CLJ, 10, (2):2-5 (Jun., 2005)], as well as her earlier *Children's Books and Their Creators* [CLJ, 1, (4):59 (Mar., 1996)]. In addition to her own extensive reading in the field of literature for young adults, she also incorporates the input of other experts and many teenagers. Her main criteria for inclusion in this book are both the highest quality of writing and a devoted readership among teens and concerned adults. Silvey applauds the recent trend toward more frankness and realism in works for teens that has accompanied the decline and fall of earlier taboos. She observes that the category of titles now most frequently subject to challenge is that of new books for young adults. Although she refrains from being judgmental as she points out potential controversial issues in her annotations, this valuable information also serves to alert more conservative decision makers to titles that might fall outside their individual selection guidelines. Despite its few minor errors, Silvey's book provides a very useful view into contemporary books for teenagers and can serve as a tool for deciding either to include or to exclude certain titles listed in this bibliography. Christian school librarians, teachers, and interested parents should certainly be familiar with it. Definitely recommended for professional libraries in Christian schools.

War & peace : a guide to literature and new media, grades 4-8 / Virginia A. Walter (Children's and young adult literature reference series) LCCN 2006030671. Westport, Conn. : Libraries Unlimited, 2007.

PAP, 1591582717, 9781591582717, \$40.00.

viii, 276 p. ; 16 x 23 cm.

Adult. Rating: 3.

In the introduction to her *War & Peace: a Guide to Literature and New Media, Grades 4-8*, author Virginia Walter sets out her purpose. "This is a book for adults who care about children living in the frightening, complex, and uncertain world of the 21st century. . . . This book presents literature and information as vehicles for creating frames of reference, shared meanings, and scaffolds of knowledge." Part 1, "The Right Book for the Right Child at the Right Time" discusses children and war, children's information needs and rights, sharing books with children, followed by some relevant references. Part 2, "Resources for Children about War and Peace," is the major section of the book, with 343 numbered entries on eight topics: "War as history, Hope and glory, The consequences of war, The horrors of war, The American home front, Peace and alternatives to war; Bringing it all together: two case studies--The Trojan War, and September 11, 2001." Part 3, "Resources for Adults," adds 35 additional entries on children and war, children and peace, and children's literature about war and peace. While most of the resources listed are books, a few DVDs and CDs are also included. Each entry includes author, title, illustrator if relevant, publisher, date of publication, type of binding, ISBN, and suggested grade level. Annotations of one or two paragraphs are descriptive and often evaluative, and conclude (in Part 2) with codes to indicate fiction vs. non-fiction, and "highly recommended," "recommended," or "recommended with reservation." Reasons for reservations appear in the annotations. One appendix categorizes the resources in Part 2 under the ten

strands defined in the *Curriculum Standards* produced by the National Council for the Social Studies. Author, title, and detailed subject indexes refer to the entry numbers from Part 2. For Part 3, separate author and title indexes are provided.

While Professor Walter's earlier (1993) title, *War and Peace Literature for Children and Young*

Adults: A Resource Guide, discussed titles for preschool children through early adolescents, this current title targets a more limited audience. However, some works addressed to younger or older audiences that provide useful perspective also appear. Resources published through 2004 are included in this book. Walter observes that the issues in her section on "The horrors of war" (which deals with Hiroshima and the Holocaust) are actually more extreme cases of "The consequences of war." A number of the resources she discusses could fit in more than one section. Although she acknowledges that some wars may be unavoidable, her general bias against war is evident. She frequently uses the word "government" in a negative context. (E.g., the Holocaust resulted from "government" policy in Germany during World War 2.) "Children should also learn that patriotism does not always require them to support their government policies" (p. 167-168). The author clearly demonstrates that war is not pretty and has many sad, and often unintended, consequences. While Walter includes around 60 titles also found in Keane's *Teen* list, fewer than 20 appear in Silvey's list above. Interested teachers and librarians who may or may not agree with the author's political bias will still find many valuable resources in this work. It is definitely recommended for Christian school librarians and teachers, as well as other interested adults.

Young adult poetry : a survey and theme guide / Rachel Schwedt and Janice DeLong. LCCN 2001033719. Westport, Conn. : Greenwood Press, 2002.

HBB, ,0313313369, 9780313313363, \$57.95.

xi, 192 p. ; 17 x 25 cm.

Adult (HS, MS). Rating: 4.

In the first 100 pages of *Young Adult Poetry: a Survey and Theme Guide*, by Rachel Schwedt and Janice DeLong, the authors provide an annotated bibliography of 198 poetry anthologies "selected with adolescents from 12 through 18 in mind." Anthology entries are arranged alphabetically by editor or author. Each entry includes a unique entry number, complete bibliographic

information with ISBN, pagination and interest level, and a lengthy annotation. Although several well-recognized older titles are included, a large majority of these titles were published in the 1990s. This bibliography is followed by a listing, arranged under alphabetical topics, of over 6,000 poems found in those anthologies. The theme topics include a variety of subjects relevant to teens, some dealing frankly with realistic issues in today's culture. Following the title of each poem listed is the entry number for the anthology in which it appears. An alphabetical index of "writers with book titles" provides cross-references for co-authors or editors of the various collections. Also included are an alphabetical index of book titles, and an index of illustrators. An "index of other significant items" refers to other more specific subjects or to individual poets mentioned in the various annotations.

Rachel Schwedt and Janice DeLong are a curriculum librarian and a professor at Liberty University. In dealing honestly with certain sensitive issues they sometimes suggest caution in the use of particular poems. Their Christian perspective is discernible to those who look for it, but is not obtrusive in this tool published for the general market. A few of the books in this guide also appear in Silvey's bibliography, and even fewer in the Keane teen reading list. In the Theme Guide, the authors provide many helpful cross-references for the topic headings, with subdivisions for more general topics like "love" and "religion." Although the authors of many individual poems are mentioned in the bibliography annotations (and therefore in the "index of other significant items"), the listings of poem titles in the Theme Guide do not provide the names of the poets adjacent to the poem titles. This unique guide suggests useful titles for a collection of poetry anthologies, and also provides subject information for their contents. Primarily designed for adults, it can also be used by interested students, if their libraries include many of the titles indexed. Definitely recommended for Christian school as well as public libraries.

[Updated Book Lists](#)

and by subscription.

The latest edition of the *Children's Catalog*, which retains its "Easy" section following Fiction, now includes 8,934 titles and 3,600 analytical entries. The *Middle and Junior High School Library Catalog* now includes 5,968 titles and 3,034 analytical entries, and retains considerable overlap in titles with the *Children's Catalog*, probably less than 30 percent, and the *Senior High School Library Catalog*, likely less than 20 percent. Additional titles are added in the annual supplements to these editions. Each collection now includes a section of graphic novels, classed in 741.5. Expanded sections reflect subjects of current interest, such as minorities and diversity, ecology, and personal values. These standard catalogs have multiple uses: as aids to selection for purchase, cataloging, curriculum suggestions for teachers, etc. These and other titles in the Standard Catalog series are also available online by subscription on Wilson Web, updated quarterly, with additional searching features. (For further description of these titles, please see the appendix below.)

Best books for children : preschool through grade 6 / Catherine Barr, John T. Gillespie. 8th ed. (Children's and young adult literature reference series) LCCN 2005030882. Westport, Conn. : Libraries Unlimited, 2006.

HBB, 1591580854, 9781591580850, \$80.00.

xvi, 1783 p.; 19 x 27 cm.

Adult. Rating: 4.

Best books for middle school and junior high readers : grades 6 – 9. / John T. Gillespie, Catherine Barr. Suppl. to the 1st ed. (Children's and young adult literature reference series) LCCN 2006031033. Westport, Conn. : Libraries Unlimited, 2006.

HBB, 1591584116, 9781591584117, \$40.00.

xv, 339 p.; 19 x 27 cm.

Adult. Rating: 3.

Best books for high school readers : grades 9-12 / John T. Gillespie. Catherine Barr. Suppl. to the 1st ed. (Children's and young adult literature reference series) LCCN 2006031663. Westport, Conn. : Libraries Unlimited , 2006.

HBB, 1591584108, 9781591584100, \$40.00.

Note: After some consultation with the editor, we agreed that it would be useful to discuss the following titles in the context of my reviews of their earlier editions in my article "More Book Lists, Part 1" [*CLJ* 10, 1:51-54 (Mar. 2005)]. A major excerpt from that article will be appended at the end of my comments here. These comments will deal primarily with changes in these new editions. Please consult the appendix below for more details and general discussion of these valuable titles.

Children's catalog / edited by Anne Price. 19th ed. (Standard catalog series) LCCN 2006028647. New York : H. W. Wilson Co., 2006.

HBB, 0824210735, 9780824210731, \$195.00.

xii, 1670 p. ; 18 x 26 cm.

Adult. Rating: 5.

Middle and junior high school library catalog / edited by Anne Price. 9th ed. (Standard catalog series) LCCN 2005023123. New York : H. W. Wilson Co., 2005.

HBB, 0824210530, 9780824210533, \$290.00.

xv, 1237 p. ; 18 x 26 cm.

Adult. Rating: 4.

Among the book selection tools for school libraries, the most popular and most useful are the Standard catalog series published by H. W. Wilson Company. For each title, new editions are now being published every four years, with annual supplements for the intervening years. The authors do not recommend weeding good titles discontinued from earlier editions unless other more suitable recent titles become available. Although only English language titles are included, some titles that are also available in Spanish are still noted in their annotations. However, in these new editions, they are no longer listed under the "Spanish language editions" subject heading in the index. Between their "Classified Catalog" sections and their "Author, Title, Subject, and Analytical Index" sections, each of these new editions includes a new "List of Recommended Periodicals," with both professional and student titles, and a revised and renamed "List of Recommended Electronic Resources," including those available both free

The books in the Best Books series by John Gillespie, and more recently with Catherine Barr, are the most comprehensive of the selective children's book selection tools. Titles selected for inclusion were in print at the time of publication.

Superseding both the earlier edition and its supplement, this latest edition of *Best Books for Children* (2006) includes 26,958 titles within 25,347 numbered entries. More than one-third of these titles are new to this edition, as many titles from earlier editions have become out-of-print, or are "considered no longer timely or suitable." Although earlier editions included a very few titles listed as graphic novels, this edition now has more than a page of titles in a separate section. Topics of current interest appear under a variety of subjects such as "War on terror, 2001-" and "September 11, 2001." The Subject/Grade Level Index lists a number of titles under various "Spanish language" categories.

The 2006 *Supplement to the Best Books for Middle School and Junior High Readers* (2004) includes 2,989 additional titles within 2,816 entries. It includes recommended titles published during the two-year period through mid-2006. "About one-fifth of the entries in this volume are adult books suitable for young adult readers." The 2006 *Supplement to the Best Books for High School Readers* (2004) includes 2,659 titles within 2,538 entries. It also includes recommended titles published during the two-year period through mid-2006. "About a quarter of the entries in this volume are adult books suitable for young adult readers." Both of these supplements have considerably larger sections on graphic novels than their foundation volumes, as well as greater emphasis on contemporary issues such as "Terrorism." (For additional details on these titles, please see the appendix below.)

A to Zoo: subject access to children's picture books / Carolyn W. Lima and John A. Lima. 7th ed. (Children's and young adult literature reference

series) LCCN 2005030879. Westport, Conn. : Libraries Unlimited, 2006.

HBB, 1591582326, 9781591582328, \$80.00.

xxiii, 1692 p. ; 23 x 29 cm.

Adult. Rating: 4.

A to Zoo, by Carolyn and John Lima, is a comprehensive guide to more than 28,000 children's picture books, cataloged under more than 1,350 subjects. This edition includes "more than 4,000 titles published since 2001." Because out-of-print titles are not automatically removed from this work, this edition has increased in both size and weight. The increased number of subject categories reflects many of the contemporary societal concerns, some of which are controversial. Although most picture books are written primarily for children preschool through grade two, an increasing number are designed with a broader audience in mind. (For additional information on the format and organization for this title, please see the appendix below.)

The quality of these selection tools is quite high. Each could be recommended for Christian school libraries. However, since many of these selection tools are available for use in local public libraries, a choice to buy them may depend on local access and individual budgets.

Donna W. Bowling, Library/Educational Consultant, Dallas, Texas

Appendix: Excerpts from "More Book Lists, Part 1." [CLJ 10, 1:51-54 (Mar. 2005)].

Children's catalog / edited by Anne Price and Juliette Yaakov. 18th ed. (Standard catalog series.) LCCN 2001046599. New York : H.W. Wilson, 2001.

HBB, 0824210093, List cost: \$175.00.

011.62. Children's literature—Bibliography; Children's libraries—United States—Book lists; School libraries—United States—Book lists; Children—Books and reading—United States. xiv, 1265 p. ; 26 cm. + 2002 supplement (176 p. ; 26 cm.)+ 2003 supplement (171 p. ; 26 cm.) + 2004 supplement (p. ; 26 cm.).

Adult. Rating : 5.

Middle and junior high school library catalog / edited by Anne Price and Juliette Yaakov. 8th ed. (Standard catalog series.) LCCN 00063316. New York :H.W. Wilson, 2000.

HBB, 0824209966, List cost: \$250.00.

011.62/5. Young adult literature—Bibliography; Junior high school libraries—United States—Book lists. xiv, 1021 p. ; 26 cm. + 2001 supplement (164 p. ; 26 cm.) ; 2002 supplement (146 p. ; 26 cm.) ; 2003 supplement (169 p. ; 26 cm.) ; 2004 supplement (167 p. ; 26 cm.).

Adult. Rating : 4.

Senior high school library catalog /edited by Juliette Yaakov. 16th ed.(Standard catalog series.) LCCN2002033133. New York : H.W. Wilson, 2002.

HBB, 0824210085, List cost: \$210.00.

011.62. Young adult literature—Bibliography; High school libraries—United States—Booklists. xiv, 1243 p. ; 27 cm. + 2003 supplement (157 p. ; 26 cm.) + 2004 supplement (p. ; 26cm.).

Adult. Rating : 5.

Among the book selection tools for school libraries, the most popular and most useful are the Standard catalog series published by H. W. Wilson Company. For each title, new editions are published every five years, with annual supplements for the intervening years. Each catalog has two main sections. The first is a classified catalog, with entries arranged in order based on the Abridged Dewey Decimal Classification system for non-fiction titles, followed by fiction and story collection titles. Each class number is followed by a short phrase that identifies the subject. Each entry includes author (arranged alphabetically under subject), title, illustrator, publisher, date, pagination, price, grade level, Sears subject headings, ISBN, LCCN, and award. The paragraph-length annotations with description and evaluation are frequently quoted from standard review sources. If part of a series, other titles in the series are listed. Following the classified catalog is a combined "author, title, subject, and analytical index" with entries interfiled in alphabetical order. For each author, titles are arranged in alphabetical order, with grade levels and classification numbers indicated. Related titles refer to main title listing. For collected works, a contents listing of stories included is appended here. Title entries (including analytical titles within collected works) indicate author and classification. For subject entries, author, title, grade level, and classification are given. Other smaller sections include a directory of publishers and distributors and a list of recommended web resources (both free and by subscription). Annual supplements include newer titles, again arranged in classified catalog format with a combined author, title, subject, and analytical index. The double column format, with appropriate

white space is easy to use. Each standard catalog is designed to represent a core collection of basic, highly recommended titles for its level. Almost all of the titles were in print at the time of publication, although a few especially significant out-of-print titles have been included if more recent suitable titles were not available. However, the authors do not recommend weeding good titles discontinued from earlier editions unless other more suitable recent titles become available. Although only English language titles are included, some titles that are also available in Spanish are so noted in their annotations, and are listed under the "Spanish language editions" subject heading in the index. These standard catalogs are selective rather than inclusive

Best books for children : preschool through grade 6 / John T. Gillespie. 7th ed. LCCN 2001037971. Westport, Conn.: Libraries Unlimited, 2002.

HBB, 0313320683, List cost: \$65.00

.011.62. Best books; Children's literature—Bibliography; Children—Books and reading—United States. xxi, 1617 p. ; 26 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

Best books for children : preschool through grade 6 / John T. Gillespie and Catherine Barr. Suppl. to 7th ed. LCCN 2003065949. Westport, Conn. : Libraries Unlimited, 2003.

HBB, 159158082X, List cost: \$35.00.

011.62. Best books; Children's literature—Bibliography; Children—Books and reading—United States. xxvi, 507 p. ; 26 cm.

Adult. Rating : 3.

Best books for middle school and junior high readers : grades 6-9 / John T. Gillespie and Catherine Barr. LCCN 2004041798. Westport, Conn. : Libraries Unlimited, 2004.

HBB, 1591580838, List cost: \$75.00.

028.5/35. Middle school students—Books and reading—United States; Junior high school students—Books and reading—United States; Pre-teens—Books and reading—United States; Teenagers—Books and reading—United States; Children's literature—Bibliography; Young adult literature—Bibliography; Middle school libraries—United States—Book lists; Junior high school libraries—United States—Booklists. xviii, 1172 p. ; 26 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

Best books for high school readers, grades 9-12 / John T. Gillespie and Catherine Barr. LCCN 2004303598. Westport, Conn. : Libraries Unlimited, 2004.

HBB, 1591580846, List cost: \$75.00.

011.62. Young adult literature—Bibliography; High school libraries—United States—Book lists; Teenagers—Books and reading—United States. xix, 1182 p. ; 26 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

The books in the Best Books series by John Gillespie, and more recently with Catherine Barr, are the most comprehensive of the selective children's book selection tools. Titles selected for inclusion were in print at the time of publication. These titles have received favorable reviews from one or more (usually at least two) widely accepted review sources. Their double-column formats are similar. Main entries are arranged alphabetically by author within subjects (sometimes divided into smaller subdivisions). Entries include: entry number, author, title, grade levels, illustrations and illustrator, series if non-fiction, date, publisher, ISBN (hardbound and paper), price, sentence length annotation, review citations, and Dewey Decimal number. Some annotations contain additional recommended titles by the author. Indexes include: an author/illustrator index that provides main entry titles with entry numbers, a title index that lists both main entry titles and additional titles with entry numbers, and a subject/grade level index that provides more detailed and specific subject access citing entry numbers only, without titles or authors.

A to zoo : subject access to children's picture books / Carolyn W. Lima, John A. Lima. 6th ed. LCCN 2001037398. Westport, Conn. : Libraries Unlimited, 2001.

HBB, 0313320691, List cost: \$75.00.

011.62. Children's literature, English—Indexes; Picture books for children—Indexes. xxvi, 1771 p. ;26 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

A to Zoo, by Carolyn and John Lima, is a comprehensive guide to nearly 23,000 children's picture books, cataloged under more than 1200 subjects. Following a brief introductory history of the picture book, is the key to the use of this guide—an alphabetical listing of main subject headings, subheadings, and the vital cross-references. The next major section is the subject guide that lists in alphabetical order: first, main subjects with their subheadings; then, specific authors; and then, relevant titles by those authors. The bibliographic guide is arranged alphabetically by author (or by title if the author is unknown). Bibliographic entries include author, title, illustrator, publisher, date, ISBN (for more

recent books), and subjects. Cross-references refer from joint author (with title) to main author. Titles in the title index are arranged alphabetically, followed by author within parentheses, and page number of the bibliographic entry. Illustrators in the illustrator index are arranged alphabetically, followed by title, then author within parentheses, and page number of the bibliographic entry. Although most picture books are written primarily for children preschool through grade two, an increasing number are designed with a broader audience in mind. *A to Zoo* includes many useful out-of-print titles "because school and public library collections consist mostly of out-of-print materials." In spite of the absence of annotations, its greater number of picture book titles, including a substantial number of non-fiction titles, provides access to potential resources not available through other tools. Although white space is necessarily limited with its double-column format, the guide terms in the headers of each page make navigating through this large book a simple task. If tight budgets hinder purchase of this useful tool, school librarians, teachers, and homeschooling parents might be able to consult copies in local public libraries.

. . . Purchase of any of these useful titles for Christian schools or teachers depends upon local public access and individual budgets. The Wilson catalogs are quite valuable where funds are available. . . Each of the bibliographies from the Greenwood Publishing Group (including Bowker and Libraries Unlimited) has value and merits consulting by teachers and librarians in local libraries if limited funds hinder purchase. In all cases, discernment is necessary when selecting for Christian young people from among titles recommended by professionals with varying worldviews.

Donna W. Bowling, Library/Educational Consultant, Dallas, Texas

Evolution, Creation, or Intelligent Design?

by Rosemarie DiCristo

The creation vs. evolution debate continues to be in the news, and much has been written on the issues. Seven books and one DVD are reviewed here, covering such topics as what the supporters of evolution, creationism, and intelligent design believe; the issues that sometimes divide creationists and intelligent designers; and the young earth and old earth debate. Two of the books, *A Biblical Case for an Old Earth*, and *Science and Grace: Friends or Foes?*, carefully compare what's in the book of Genesis to what science says about Creation. Two others, *The Soul of Science: Christian Faith and Natural Philosophy*, and *Science and Grace: God's Reign in the Natural Sciences*, are concerned with the conflicts a Christian scientist might face and are best suited to academic audiences. *Reclaiming Science from Darwinism: a Clear Understanding of Creation, Evolution, and Intelligent Design*, is more understandable for general audiences. Clearly written, it includes a large amount of information and seems the best at backing up its sources. One book, *Can You Believe in God and Evolution? A Guide for the Perplexed*, is written from the point of view that both the intelligent design and creation camps are wrong; it comes highly recommended by one of evolutionist's strongest supporters. *Creation vs. Evolution: What Do Current Scientific Discoveries Reveal?*, is the lone DVD. Being an audiovisual presentation, it's possibly the easiest for young audiences to understand, but the facts presented are less convincing than in the other books reviewed here.

A Biblical case for an old earth / David Snoke. LCCN 2006009543. Grand Rapids : Baker Books, 2006.

PAP, 0801066190, list price: \$14.99.

231.7/652. Bible and geology; Earth--Age. 223 p. : ill. ; 22 cm..

Adult (HS). Rating : 4.

A Biblical Case for an Old Earth focuses on the old earth vs. young earth aspect of the evolution vs. intelligent design debate. As can be guessed from the title, author David Snoke believes a careful reading of the Bible overwhelmingly supports an old earth; he also believes old earth theories offer the strongest proof that the universe was created by design.

Although the book is more interested in presenting a Biblical than a scientific case, Snoke, an associate professor in the department of physics and astronomy at the University of Pittsburgh, gives numerous examples from science to argue that many theories put forth by young earthers would have caused havoc in the natural world, and that most of what science tells us about the earth's age can't be ignored. Yet Snoke also dismisses the pet arguments of evolutionists.

The book's strength is its focus on what Genesis says about Creation, and its near passage-by-passage reprinting of the creation account to show how it relates to both science and young earth/old earth theories. Snoke (who is licensed to preach and is an elder in the City Reformed Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh), considers how the original Hebrew audience would have understood Genesis, using "possible" (although not always "obvious") interpretations of Biblical passages. Among the topics discussed: how the sun could appear after plants; whether animals existed, suffered, and died before the Fall; whether the Big Bang corresponds to God's command 'Let there be light;' and whether the Genesis account was from the point of view of people living in the Middle East -- meaning the Flood would

have been local, not global. Snoke also discusses whether God would deceive humanity by creating an earth that "appears" old, and the implications for theology if an old earth view is true.

Although Snoke tries to present only hard evidence and not fall into an "it's the Bible so that's proof enough" attitude, he occasionally states things like "who are we to tell God what to do?" when confronted with apparent impossibilities -- or gives explanations unlikely to win over skeptics. (Once, when discussing whether the order of animal creation in Genesis conflicts with the fossil record, he suggests God created these animals "elsewhere" and simply brought them to the land of the Hebrews in the order Genesis states). Also, despite warning readers to be skeptical of anyone spouting scientific theories if they don't hold a degree in science, Snoke presents his own 13-page "literal translation" of the original Hebrew Genesis 1-12 despite not being a Hebrew scholar.

A Biblical Case for an Old Earth is simply written and readable (in fact, like Kenneth Poppe's *Reclaiming Science from Darwinism*, it's one of the most readable book reviewed here), and Snoke's arguments are convincing and logical. The book is suitable for general audiences and high school students, although readers would probably still need another source to completely understand all the issues in the evolution/intelligent design debate.

Science & faith : friends or foes? / by C. John Collins. LCCN 2003004799. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway, 2003.

PAP, 1581344309, \$25.00.

448 p. : 16 x 23 cm.

Adult (HS). Rating: 3.

C. John Collins, a professor of Old Testament at Covenant Theological Seminary in Missouri (he also holds a degree in

electrical engineering from MIT and a Ph.D. in Hebrew linguistics from the University of Liverpool) argues in *Science and Faith: Friends or Foes?* that science and faith shouldn't be at odds, that "both good science and good faith need sound critical thinking," and that instead of fearing science, Christians should embrace it and "delight in the natural world." However, these issues aren't the book's main focus. As with David Snoke's *A Biblical Case for an Old Earth*, Collins is more concerned with how the Bible relates to evolution, creation, and intelligent design. Unlike Snoke, however, Collins puts heavy emphasis on the need for a philosophical understanding of the issues: how to reason and think, how to argue, and what questions to use.

As with Snoke's *A Biblical Case for an Old Earth* and Kenneth Poppe's *Reclaiming Science from Darwinism*, *Science and Faith: Friends or Foes?* thoroughly covers the evolution/creation/intelligent design debate. Collins gives a four-page summary of Darwin's *Origin of Species*, lists the three main conclusions of neo-Darwinism, and reprints both the National Association of Biology Teachers and the National Science Teachers Association statements about evolution to show discrepancies in each. He even addresses faulty arguments Christians use when analyzing science/faith issues. When discussing creation, Collins uses literal Bible translations (such as the English Standard Version and the New American Standard Bible), comparing how each brings out different points. He also uses New Testament passages (in particular, Paul's letters) to show how people have historically suppressed the truth about creation.

Science and Faith covers much of the same ground as *A Biblical Case for an Old Earth*: what the Genesis creation account says; whether the earth is young or old; possible meanings of the Genesis day; what God means by the Sabbath rest; whether nature changed because of the Fall. Collins tackles these issues more thoroughly than Snoke does in *A Biblical Case for an Old Earth* (without, however, *A Biblical Case*'s nearly verse-by-verse look at Genesis) and comes to similar conclusions. There's one crucial difference: *Science and Faith* says the Bible gives no way of determining the earth's age. Another difference: it takes a more scholarly approach. There are 60 pages of detailed endnotes, a two page list of "other sources," a general index, and a Scripture index. While it's a readable book, geared to general audiences as well as to parents wondering how to teach evolution and/or creation to their children, *Science and Faith* bogs down in places. Chapters are long and don't quickly get to the point. The heavy emphasis on philosophical issues sometimes makes Collins' reasoning seem circular. Despite this, however, *Science and Faith* provides a well thought out look at the evolution/creation debate.

Creation vs. evolution : what do current scientific discoveries reveal? / Ralph O. Muncaster. (Examine the evidence.) Eugene, Ore. : Harvest House, 2000.

DVD, 0736917500, , list price: \$19.99.

231.7/652. Creationism. 1 videodisc (135 min.) : sd., col. ; 4 3/4 in..

HS (Adult). Rating : 2.

Is the theory of evolution likely? Can the universe's complexity be solely the result of random variation and natural selection? *Creation vs. Evolution: What Do Current Scientific Discoveries Reveal?*, a 135 minute DVD hosted by Ralph Muncaster, answers no to both questions.

Muncaster, founder and executive director of the Institute of Contemporary Christian Faith and a frequent lecturer on intelligent design issues, divides the DVD into basic and advanced sections to separate simplified from highly complex presentations of the concepts. The basic section makes good use of animation, title slides, and music as it addresses the viewer directly, keeps its explanations simple, and defines the main teaching of evolution, creation, and intelligent design. The advanced section -- narrated by Thomas Devartanian, director of research at the Petra Broadcasting Corporation -- includes such topics as a study of natural mechanisms for DNA assembly and an analysis of fossil interpretation and homology.

The basic section tackles such issues as young earth vs. old earth, when the sun and moon were created, and what it means to say animals were created according to their kind. It includes a synopsis of the Scopes monkey trial and a step-by-step explanation of how Genesis 1 compares to what science says about the beginning of the world. In these ways, *Creation vs. Evolution* is similar to *A Biblical Case for an Old Earth* and *Science and Faith: Friends or Foes?* A major difference: despite its subtitle, the DVD doesn't spend much time discussing scientific evidence for intelligent design. It doesn't even spend much time discussing the intricacies of the creation and intelligent design points of view. Its main focus is using fanciful analogies (a computer not only randomly typing words and sentences but creating literature; the number of coins that would have to fill the Grand Canyon) to show how probability unmasks evolution's claims while providing irrefutable evidence of design in the world. Whether these types of analogies would impress evolutionists or even be considered strong arguments for supporters of creationism or intelligent design is debatable, though. They seem simplistic, and aren't hard science. Worse, at times it seems Muncaster uses them to twist facts to his point of view.

Sometimes it's difficult to understand Muncaster's points, and some of his examples (for instance, using Mr. and Mrs. Flat from Flatland to explain how people could be unaware of an invisible creator) would be silly to teenagers -- who seem to be *Creation vs. Evolution*'s primary audience. As with most materials reviewed here, Muncaster makes broad statements. His, however, are very broad, too easily dismiss the arguments of evolutionists, and are rarely backed up with statistics. Some examples: that "millions and millions and millions of fossils" are available today to prove Darwin wrong; that "science is confirming the Bible like never before;" that every scientific reference in the Bible is 100% accurate; that part of the reason people believe in evolution is because "science wasn't smart enough" to realize the truths Christians have always known.

At times the basis section is too basic; however, the advanced

section discusses topics so advanced, it would baffle general audiences. Skeptics won't be impressed with Muncaster's readiness to believe the Bible just because it's the Bible. His emphasis on statistical "proofs" takes away from the facts and are the types of arguments evolutionists would mock. *Creation vs. Evolution* can be helpful for summing up the creation side of evolution/creation debate, but it shouldn't be used as the only source on the controversy. Especially if it's used with young audiences, companion books like Kenneth Poppe's *Reclaiming Science from Darwinism*, David Snoke's *A Biblical Case for an Old Earth*, or C. John Collins' *Science and Faith: Friends or Foes?* should also be used.

Can you believe in God and evolution? : a guide for the perplexed / Ted Peters and Martinez Hewlett. LCCN 2006003169. Nashville : Abingdon Press, 2006.

PAP, 0687335515, list price: \$12.00.

231.7/652. Religion and science; Bible and evolution; Creationism; Evolution (Biology)—Religious aspects—Christianity; Evolution—Religious aspects—Christianity. xi, 98 p. : ill. ; 23 cm.

Adult (HS). Rating : 3.

In *Can You Believe in God and Evolution?*, Ted Peters and Martinez Hewlett resoundingly answer yes, you can. In fact Peters, Professor of Systematic Theology at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, and Hewlett, Professor Emeritus in the departments of Medicine and Molecular and Cellular Biology at the University of Arizona, can't see how there can be any other answer.

Written to help readers understand that the world God created is magnificent but that "the best science" (a term used repeatedly) is the Darwinian/neo-Darwinian model, this short book (98 pages) summarizes the arguments of evolutionists, creationists, intelligent designers, and theistic evolutionists as it clarifies who's fighting and what they're fighting about.

Topics include what Darwinism says, what it did (or didn't do) to the belief in God, why evolution is a "theory," and whether a belief in evolution corrupts moral values. In this respect, *Can You Believe in God and Evolution?* covers much of what the others books do. But unlike the other books, *Can You Believe...?* is dismissive of both the creationist and intelligent design movements, believing neither is good science nor accurately counters the scientific truths found in evolution. Although Peters, a Lutheran, and Hewlett, a Roman Catholic, state several times that evolution and religion are compatible, they also make clear they don't speak for conservative or evangelical Christians, who may find some of their conclusions controversial or possibly unbiblical. They do, however, believe "a healthy curriculum" should discuss creationism. They also acknowledge weaknesses in Darwinism, calling for a theory of evolution stripped of its "baggage" -- atheism, eugenics, and social Darwinism (which they feel leads to racism and euthanasia).

A strength of *Can You Believe...?* is its succinctness. Its clear summary of the main points of Darwinism and neo-Darwinism is better than similar summaries in other books. It also nicely sums up the six main points of creationists while clarifying some

common misconceptions about evolution. A look at how other religions and the various Christianity denominations handle evolution is a nice touch.

Some weaknesses: Although the authors frequently state that both creationism and intelligent design use bad science, the reasons given (mainly, that they don't "generate research projects that lead to new knowledge") seem muddled. Also, they tend to make broad claims which they don't back up (for instance, that the lack of a fossil record proving evolution is being "almost daily refuted"); this, however, is a problem with most of the books reviewed here.

While the authors present the differing viewpoints objectively, they include stories of teachers harassed and beaten for teaching evolution, implying that "preachers and pastors" are to blame for not speaking out. They sometimes have creationists "pine" or "sigh" a conclusion rather than "state" it. They also take a dim view of "unmediated" reading of the Bible (allowing the Bible to influence every aspect of a person's life). A statement about Islam and Christianity being "born in an ancient culture now long past; and we all have to mature in a world permeated with modern science" might be considered an insult by both.

Can You Believe in God and Evolution? has an eight-page glossary and four pages of notes but no index. It's well written, has short chapters, and presents a quick summary of the evolution/creation controversy, making it good for readers wanting to understand each side. It clearly outlines problems in the arguments of both creationists and intelligent designers. Although its conclusion that theistic evolution is the preferred alternative is not as clear, and its claim that "libraries of evidence" support evolution isn't convincingly backed up, it's the only book skeptical of creationism and intelligent design, and would be a good balance when read with one of the other books listed here.

Reclaiming science from Darwinism / Kenneth Poppe. . (.) LCCN 2006015510. Eugene, Ore. : Harvest House, 2006.

PAP, 736918337, , list price: \$14.99.

576.8. Intelligent design (Teleology); Natural selection; Creationism; Evolution (Biology); ; . 314 p. : ill. ; 22 cm..

Adult (HS). Rating: 4.

Contrary to the claims in *Can You Believe in God and Evolution?* that creationism and intelligent design present bad science, *Reclaiming Science from Darwinism: a Clear Understanding of Creation, Evolution, and Intelligent Design* declares that it's evolution whose science is bad, largely because Darwinists have almost no evidence to prove their theories.

In making the case that design is responsible for our world, Kenneth Poppe (a secondary school biology teacher for over 25 years and executive director of the International Foundation for Science Education by Design) uses "resounding scientific and mathematical proof to show that natural processes can in no wise account for our existence." He divides his book into four sections, discussing the mathematical impossibilities of evolution; the impossibility that molecules could randomly organize yet still create a cell; the challenges presented by the

laws of thermodynamics; and the difficulties in the fossil record.

Poppe is like many intelligent designers, stripping religious elements from his theory so the reader can determine “who” is behind the design. He does, however, believe the answers “most compatible with science” come from the Bible and quotes extensively from it -- most notably using Psalm 104 as an “alternate” view of Creation. (This and the fact that the book’s back cover labels it part of Harvest House’s “Science & Faith” line may not entirely convince skeptics of Poppe’s objectivity).

Among the topics discussed: evidence for design in molecular biology, DNA, and amino acids; whether animals like whales or birds or body parts like eyes or ears could have evolved; and how Darwin’s classic arguments for the evolution of fruit flies, moths, and finch beaks are wrong. Also included: why Darwin’s *Origin of Species* should be read (with a 24 page interpretation of what it says); an overview of the Scopes trial and recent cases regarding evolution vs. intelligent design; and an examination of the National Association of Biology Teachers Statement on Teaching Evolution (something which *Science and Faith: Friends or Foes?* also does).

Like many of the books reviewed here, *Reclaiming Science* supports an old earth as well as a Genesis day that isn’t a literal 24 hours, although this section is brief, in keeping with Poppe’s wish to avoid injecting religion into his arguments. Unlike some of the other books, Poppe doesn’t feel science and religion should be equally revered. Also unlike some of the other books, Poppe presents a fair amount of quotes to back up his facts. (Several, however, date from the 1970s and 1980s).

Poppe addresses the reader directly, with comments along the lines of “pause, if you would, and absorb that concept.” This and his tendency towards sarcasm could be off-putting. Also, as with many of the books reviewed here, he occasionally makes broad statements: that Darwinists and atheists are one and the same; that all proponents of intelligent design have “impeccable academic credentials;” that three major religions “accept the validity of the Bible -- at least the Old Testament through Genesis” -- without also admitting that’s only one book out of 66.

Reclaiming Science is comprehensive and detailed, with its science nearly as detailed as the science in the advanced section of the *Creation vs. Evolution* DVD. However, *Reclaiming Science* is better researched. While it comes to similar conclusions as *A Biblical Case for an Old Earth* and *Science and Faith: Friends or Foes?*, Poppe’s book deliberately strips its arguments of the religious content of those books. Both these other books are clearly written, but *Reclaiming Science* is the more accessible. It concisely presents an extensive amount of information, and both the key arguments of design and the science Poppe uses to back them up are deftly presented, making the book a good choice for readers wanting to understand the issues while finding strong support for intelligent design.

Darwin's nemesis : Phillip Johnson and the intelligent design movement / edited by William A. Dembski ; foreword by Rick Santorum. LCCN 2005033144. Downers Grove, Ill. : IVP Academic, 2006.

PAP, 0830828362, list price: \$25.00.

576.8. Johnson, Phillip E., 1940-; Johnson, Phillip E., 1940- --Darwin on trial; Johnson, Phillip E., 1940- --Wedge of God; Intelligent design (Teleology); Naturalism; Apologetics. 357 p. : ill. ; 23 cm.

Adult (HS). Rating: 3.

Darwin's Nemesis is a collection of 18 essays on the “life and thought” of Phillip Johnson, the man considered the father of intelligent design. The essays are written by scientists and philosophers who’ve worked with Johnson; the book is edited by William A. Dembski, professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and author of several books on intelligent design.

Darwin's Nemesis is billed as a celebratory volume memorializing Phillip Johnson’s achievements and thanking him for his influence in the debate. Because of this, it’s more about the man than the issues. It’s broken into five sections, covering Johnson himself, the controversy his work has generated, criticisms of intelligent design, how intelligent design impacts biology, and how intelligent design effects one’s view of the universe. Special emphasis is placed on the young earth vs. old earth debate and on the problems that teaching intelligent design can cause in public and Christian schools; the 2005 decision in *Kitzmiller v. Dover* (considered by some to be Scopes II) is fully discussed in the preface.

The book is part of IVP’s Academic line and it shows. The authors frequently refer to such things as the “false theory of materialist reductionism” or the “thoroughly unscientific denial of formal and final causes in nature.” Important concepts from evolution, creationism, and intelligent design are often mentioned with no further explanation, and some essays suffer from wordiness and academic-ese while others, given the celebratory nature of the book, sound self-congratulatory.

Readers with no prior knowledge of the evolution vs. creation debate can infer much about it from *Darwin's Nemesis*, but since the book presents bits and pieces of the debate rather than a full-scale discussion of it, it would be more helpful if read with books like *Reclaiming Science from Darwinism, A Biblical Case for an Old Earth*, or *Science and Faith: Friends or Foes?* While *Darwin's Nemesis* is suitable for high schoolers and general audiences, especially if they have a background in the topic, it seems geared mainly to college students or readers interested in the history of intelligent design.

The soul of science : Christian faith and natural philosophy / Nancy R. Pearcey and Charles B. Thaxton. (Turning point Christian worldview series.) LCCN 93042580. Wheaton, Ill. : Crossway Books, 1994.

PAP, 0891077669, list price: \$15.99.

261.5/5. Science--History; Philosophy and science--History; Religion and science--History. xiii, 298 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

Adult. Rating: 3.

Writing from the premise that, until the 20th Century, Christianity was the “dominant intellectual force” in most areas of thinking, *The Soul of Science: Christian Faith and Natural Philosophy* studies the history of science and Christianity’s role in its development. Nancy R. Pearcey, a science writer and contributing editor for the Pascal Centre for Advanced Studies in

Science and Faith, and Charles B. Thaxton, who holds a Ph.D in chemistry and has done postdoctoral work in the history of science at Harvard, discuss key controversies that have challenged science, showing how Christians (and Christian scientists) have responded.

Unlike the other books reviewed here, *The Soul of Science* isn't principally concerned with the evolution/creation controversy, although Pearcey and Thaxton believe that the lawfulness of nature makes a designer necessary. The book also discusses the work of Ptolemy, Copernicus, Kepler, Galileo, Newton, Einstein, and others as well as their relationship to the philosophies of Plato and Aristotle. It's written to show that modern scientific thinking is a western European, largely Christian, invention; that it came about from a quest to better understand God; and that most of the early scientific thinkers -- despite what history tells us -- weren't opposed to Christianity but often had strong religious beliefs.

The book is very detailed, and heavy on scientific theory or discussion of those theories. There are full-chapter treatments of the theory of relativity, quantum mechanics, and DNA, and an in-depth treatment of Charles Darwin. The writing is generally clear and easily understandable, and points made throughout the book are summed up within and at the end of each chapter. The chapters are long, however, and the font small, and some familiarity with the subjects discussed (especially the controversy over evolution) is necessary. Also, since like Tim Morris and Don Petcher's *Science and Grace: God's Reign in the Natural Sciences*, this book goes deeper into an understanding of science than the average reader might want, it's probably not the best book for general audiences or audiences interested solely in evolution/creationism/intelligent design. (Note that it was published in 1994, making it the oldest of the books reviewed here).

Science & grace: God's reign in the natural sciences /

Tim Morris, Don Petcher. LCCN 2005023917. Wheaton, Ill. : Crossway Books, 2006.

PAP, 1581345496, list price: \$14.99.

261.5/5. Religion and science. xvi. 352 p. ; 22 cm..

Adult. Rating: 3.

Science and Grace: God's Reign in the Natural Sciences discusses the evolution vs. creation debate, but, as with *The Soul of Science*, that's not its main focus. Tim Morris, Dean of Science at Covenant College, and Don Petcher, Physics Department Chair at Covenant, discuss what led to the modern "war" between science and Christianity; the historical forces influencing the rise of pre-modern, modern, and post-modern thought; how they shaped the way Christians think about science; and how they relate to a science rooted in an evangelical, specifically Reformed, perspective.

The writing suffers from wordiness (chapters are lengthy and can be difficult, the book is stronger on theory than on tangibles), but Morris and Petcher have a deep knowledge of their subject. Among the questions raised: how does a person's worldview affect his or her science? What roles do the doctrines of sin and redemption play? Is God primarily spiritual or is He also involved in the mechanics of the universe? Can a Christian avoid scientific "idols of thought" and instead find science in the power of God's grace?

The authors make liberal use of direct quotations from primary sources, both in the text and in the endnotes, with the points and conclusions of each chapter neatly summed up at the end of the chapter. There are 24 pages of endnotes, a six page bibliography, and an index. Although general audiences can find *Science and Grace* of interest, it's really a highly academic book, geared to college audiences or perhaps the authors' fellow professors. This makes it closer to *The Soul of Science* than to the other books reviewed here; in fact, readers interested primarily in creationism/evolution would be disappointed with both these titles.

Reclaiming Science from Darwinism is the most clearly written of the books reviewed here. It presents the most information, looks at all sides of the evolution vs. creation debate, and nicely backs up its claims. *A Biblical Case for an Old Earth* is a close second in terms of the clarity of the writing and the amount of information given. *Science and Faith: Friends or Foes?* also ably covers the debate (although it's slightly less reader friendly); like *A Biblical Case for an Old Earth*, it thoroughly analyzes what the Bible says about Creation. *Darwin's Nemesis* presents a nice overview of the debate, but only an overview, focusing more on intelligent design founder Phillip Johnson. *Can You Believe in God and Evolution?*, although it provides a clear summary of the debate, is written from the evolutionist point of view, which may make some audiences hesitant to read it. Both *The Soul of Science* and *Science and Grace* are primarily concerned with the history of Christians as scientists. *Creation vs. Evolution*, despite the plus of being an audiovisual presentation, is the weakest in terms of facts presented.

Each of these titles offer valuable insights on the evolution vs. creation debate; however, none gives readers a complete picture. Sampling from several is recommended.

Review Rating System

- *5 Outstanding – a book which impacts someone’s life or thinking**
- 5 Excellent – well written, among the very best**
- 4 Good – definitely worth reading**
- 3 Fair – to be read for relaxation or to meet needs for information**
- 2 Poor – poor writing or editing; read only if very interested**
- 1 - What can we say? Not much going for this title.**

Recommended with caution (may be used with any of the above ratings)–Note reservations within the review.

Not recommended (may be used with any of the above ratings)–Note problems within the review.

With fiction, the rating includes the quality of plot development/pacing, characterization, sense of time and place, mood and atmosphere, dialogue, depth of perception, sensitivity of writing, use of humor. Be aware that some books are character driven, so character development is extremely important. Others are plot driven, so character development isn't as critical; plot is.

With nonfiction, the rating includes quality of the information, up to date, stimulates further inquiry, adds to the understanding of the topic, illustrations which are informative and appropriate.

Commonly used abbreviations in *CLJ* reviews

LCCN Library of Congress
Cataloging Number

C Canadian Library Cataloging
Number

ISBN International Standard Book
Number

HBB Hardbound book

LGP Large print book

LIB Library edition

LLB Loose-leaf binding

PAP Paperbound book

PBB Paper board book

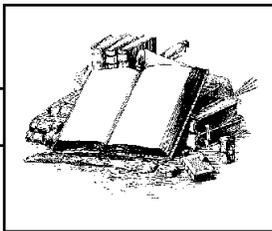
SPR Spiral bound book

CAS Audiocassette

CDR CD-ROM

DVD Videodisc

VID Videocassette



Baby bear's books / written by Jane Yolen ; illustrated by Melissa Sweet. LCCN 2005019203. Orlando, Fla. : Harcourt, 2006.

HBB, 0152052909, 9780152052904, list price: \$16.00.

E. Bears--Fiction; Day--Fiction; Books and reading--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

PS. Rating : 3.

Baby Bear loves reading books. In *Baby Bear's Books*, author Jane Yolen has the reader following Baby Bear through his day of playing and reading his books.

Baby Bear asks to have his books read to him all through the day. Anytime is a good, before he gets out of bed, snack time, naptime, dinner time, and bed time. His mama is always happy to read to him. Baby Bear's relationship with his mama is an encouragement for parents to read more to their own children.

In this rhyming book for young children, the rhymes are stiff at times, but it reads well out loud with a nice cadence on most pages. Melissa Sweet's bright and colorful illustrations enrich the story and add playfulness to the book. The publisher suggests this book for ages two to five, but older children may enjoy it as well.

Pam Halter

Beloved Bible stories / Rabbit Ears Entertainment. New York : Listening Library, 2003.

CDR, 0739337092, list price: \$11.95.

E. Bible stories. 1 sound disc (60 min.) : digital ; 4 3/4 in.

INT (MS). Rating : 5.

Classic Bible stories / Rabbit Ears Entertainment. New York : Listening Library, 1993.

CDR, 0739337076, list price: \$11.95.

E. Bible stories. 1 sound disc (60 min.) : digital ; 4 3/4 in.

INT (MS). Rating : 5.

Rabbit Ears Entertainment is known for producing audio stories showcasing the

talents of actors and musicians. They have brought together an impressive arrangement for their *Beloved* and *Classic Bible Stories*. Each compact disc has two stories, each being approximately twenty-five minutes in length. While the stories are factually accurate, there is still a lingering sense of detachment, missing the point that these are God's truths. However, these are well-done retellings that can serve as lead-ins to reading the actual biblical accounts.

Moses in Egypt concentrates on Moses beginnings in Egypt as a Hebrew baby raised by the Pharaoh's daughter, to eventually becoming the leader of his people. Danny Glover brings a warm storyteller quality to the beloved story, and one can imagine him sitting in a chair with children leaning forward to hear of Moses and the miracles he brings to the disbelieving Pharaoh. The story ends as Moses leads the Hebrews out of Egypt, with the "sweet taste of freedom" upon their lips. The Sounds of Blackness creates music with a sense of awe and respect, yet at the same time it is joyful accompaniment to the story.

Moses the Lawgiver continues from Moses in Egypt, and is more pensive in its presentation. Ben Kingsley as the narrator is an interesting choice, since he once played Moses in a cinematic version. This second part is a contrast of the jubilation felt by the Hebrews going from captives to the tenuous trust they have in God as they journey toward the Promised Land. The music by Lyle Mays stirs up the apprehension, and tension, making it perhaps too intense for younger listeners.

"The Creation," read by Amy Grant, is lyrical and moving. The banjo-laced music provided by Bela Fleck and the Flecktones truly provides a light and exultant mood to the wonderment of God creating the world. Grant has a marvelous, lilting voice, as if she were telling the story to one of her own children, and even

renders a snatch of a praise/worship song, which adds an overall reverence, unlike the other audio stories.

The last story, "Noah and the Ark," is all about persistence and faith. As Kelly McGillis tells the story, a person can envision the enormity of the task Noah faced as he constructed the Ark. The Paul Winter Consort provides a jazz flavor accompaniment, which works surprisingly well.

Pam Webb

Bubble & Squeak / by Louise Bonnett-Rampersaud ; illustrated by Susan Banta. LCCN 2005027933. New York : Marshall Cavendish, 2006.

HBB, 0761453105, list price: \$14.99.

E. Bedtime--Fiction; Mothers and daughters--Fiction; Sisters--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 21 x 27 cm.

PS. Rating : 5.

Louise Bonnett-Rampersaud tells the story of a young child, Bubble, and her bedtime conversations with mother about baby sister Squeak. Braving the night, Bubble wonders with her mother if the baby sister will be afraid of monsters in the night. Bubble investigates under the bed and in the closet (with mother close at hand) explaining all the while that she is definitely not afraid. Professing concerns for baby Squeak, they proceed together through a bedtime routine that eventually leads to sleep.

Bubble & Squeak tells a charming story of adjusting to bedtime and a new sibling, gingerly capturing the nurturing conversations between mother and child. Set against the white page, Susan Banta brings the story to life with illustrations of bright but gentle watercolors. These natural-looking characters are set against the backdrop of a homey abode with lots of engaging household details. Expressive characters with a charming discourse make

this a sweet picture book to complement any children's collection. Appropriate for all preschool collections.

Rebecca Cress-Ingebo

Froggy rides a bike / by Jonathan London ; illustrated by Frank Remkiewicz. LCCN 2005018084. New York : Viking, 2006.

HBB, 0670060992, 9780670060993, list price: \$15.99.

E. Frogs--Fiction; Bicycles and bicycling--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 21 x 27 cm.

PRI. Rating : 4.

Froggy has a shiny new bike that he wants to ride, but his dad has to put on the horn and bell first. When Froggy is ready to go, he realizes he doesn't know how to ride a bike. His dad helps and before long, Froggy is riding his bike.

Jonathan London's loveable character, Froggy, is back with a shiny new bike in this action packed adventure. Using a quirky writing style, London tells how Froggy imagines zooming so fast on his bike that he takes off in the sky. But it's only a dream. Before he can ride, he must get dressed, go to the bike shop, and have Dad attach a horn and bell. With all the onomatopoeia words we love in other Froggy adventures, Froggy sets off to ride his bike. Kids will love cheering Froggy on until he masters his bike, ringing the bell and popping wheelies.

The story is enhanced by the brightly colored, whimsical illustrations that add fun and zip to the story. Emergent readers will quickly learn the sound effect words, which are repeated for emphasis and rendered on the page as part of the illustrations. The book is just plain fun. Cheers to Mr. London for another successful Froggy story. Fop, fop, fop!

Pam Halter

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Good boy, Fergus! / David Shannon. LCCN 2005008541. New York : Blue Sky Press, 2006.

HBB, 0439490278, list price: \$15.99.

E. Dogs--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

PS. Rating : *5.

Good Boy, Fergus! is a jubilant ode to a favorite pet, and the words and pictures fairly dance across the pages with David Shannon's singular joie de vivre. This full-size picture book is reminiscent of *No! David* (Blue Sky Press, 1998; CLJ, Nov.2004) in texture, color, and style, but the lovable rascal revealed through its pages is a dog. Fergus romps through his day in snapshots, chasing a cat, destroying a potted plant, and begging for bits of dinner. He performs great tricks, though not always on command, and he has a penchant for motorcyclists. In short, Fergus appears to run the household in his doggy way; happily living his doggy life with his people affectionately aiding and abetting his exploits.

Shannon does not portray Fergus as a metaphor for childhood. Fergus is disobedient and indulged, but he is a dog! His irrepressible nature may call for some training, but he is always a good dog, nonetheless. Shannon captures the love we feel for dogs and the reasons why we forgive their excesses. The illustrations are the stars of the book with bright, warm colors that express Fergus' exuberance; the text isn't a narrative, but the human half of a dialogue. Fergus' responses are all kinesthetic! The text's size, color, and location on the page are integral to the layout. This is a book to be shared or read alone. Its humor might best be appreciated by children who have experience with dogs. Readers will have a lot to talk about as they peruse this funny, warm book.

Diane Carver Sekeres

Goodnight, my duckling / Nancy Tafuri. LCCN 2003025736. New York : Scholastic, 2005.

HBB, 0439398819, list price: \$16.95.

E. Bedtime--Fiction; Pond animals--Fiction; Lost children--Fiction; Ducks--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 21 x 26 cm.

PS. Rating : 3.

A mother duck calls her ducklings for bed. One duckling dawdles until the mother and other ducklings are out of sight. He finds his way home with the help of a friend.

Goodnight, My Duckling is a nice bedtime story for very young children. With only a few words per spread and a simplistic writing style, the story relies heavily on the watercolor pictures. The illustrations, soft and realistic, are in earthy colors and are sure to delight children as they follow duckling on his adventure.

The book can be read out loud to younger children, and children a little older will be able to follow the story themselves by looking at the pictures. They will enjoy seeing how duckling finds his way home, safe and sound, to be tucked in with his brothers and sisters. This book is the companion to *Have You Seen My Duckling?* (Greenwillow, 1984), also by Ms. Tafuri.

Pam Halter

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Haiku on your shoe / by Eileen M. Berry ; illustrated by Dana Regan. LCCN 2004024868. Greenville, S.C. : JourneyForth, 2005.

PAP, 1591663741, list price: \$6.49.

Fic. Friendship--Fiction; Japanese--United States--Fiction; Schools--Fiction. 56 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

PRI. Rating : *5.

In *Haiku on Your Shoe*, Taka, a new student from Japan, joins Jeremy's class. Because of the fact that he is very quiet and has difficulty speaking English, Taka is ridiculed by Jeremy's friends. Mom advises Jeremy to show God's love by

Diane Carver Sekeres

befriending Taka, but Jeremy's efforts are declined. The class learns about haiku, small Japanese poems written in 17 syllables, and each student is assigned to write his or her own poem. Later, while making paper snowflakes in class, Taka folds one of his papers into an origami bird. Jeremy excitedly asks Taka to show him how to make origami animals and is again rejected. Upset by the continued rejections, Jeremy is ready to give up on Taka. Mom encourages Jeremy with a reminder that he wouldn't like it if God gave up on him. When school is cancelled for a snow day, Taka's mom invites Jeremy over to play. Mom and Jeremy spend a nice day with Taka and his mom and find that, although their languages and cultures differ, they have many things in common.

Haiku on Your Shoe is an early fiction reader written by Eileen M. Berry and illustrated by Dana Regan. Berry gracefully interjects Christian principles of friendship and acceptance of diversity, without sounding didactic. Personalized by Jeremy's first-person account, the story is entertaining and easy to follow. Dialogue is natural and adds a smooth progression. Regan's pen and ink sketches appropriately capture both movement and simplicity. Includes instructions for making a snowflake and an origami bird. Highly recommended for both school and public libraries.

Kim Harris

Horned avenger : the battle against Von Boredom / directed and produced by Ray Nelson, Jr. ; supervising producer, Rick Eldridge. . (The Horned Avenger ; 1.) Nashville : Tommy Nelson, 2005.

DVD, 1400306523, list price: \$14.99.

Fic. Creativity--Fiction; Christian fiction. 1 videodisc : sd., col. ; 4 3/4 in.

PRI. Rating : 2.

Horned Avenger begins with a frightening episode where a little girl, Allie, watches aliens turn her father into one of them, all of whom then chase her. The Horned Avenger (a masked, caped, upright rhinoceros) appears and draws items that materialize (just like the landscape in *Harold and the Purple Crayon* (Harper & Row, 1955)) that help them get away from the aliens. Later, we find that the Horned Avenger is extremely gifted in creativity, and eventually we learn that the aliens were made by Baron Von Boredom. He was not allowed to be creative by his teacher or parents, so he vows to stamp out all the creativity in the world. Allie vanquishes Von Boredom by pointing out that his attempts to stamp out creativity were only possible because he was so creative!

The concept is terrific; that is, that our creativity comes from the creator and by expressing it, we become closer to him. There are two instances when the Horned Avenger quotes scripture, showing how scripture helps to bolster courage. However, the concept doesn't play out well. The sequences are slow and confusing for the first half of the DVD until all the characters are explained. The intent behind the story is difficult to decipher, especially in the beginning. For example, the Horned Avenger explains his ability to draw things that become real because he has faith as a mustard seed. It's also unclear what Baron Von Boredom's denial of or misuse of creativity is meant to show. The cartoon itself is slow-moving, though it uses color and repeated movement well to give a sense of action. The humor includes third-grade level jokes and pratfalls as well as some lines that adults would catch. There is potential for future stories in the series if the theological concept is carried through the story as well as the art. The best parts are the extras: for example, a drawing class that shows how to draw one of the characters.

The little engine that could / retold by Watty Piper ; pictures by Loren Long. LCCN 2004030496. New York : Philomel Books, 2005.

HBB, 0399244670, list price: \$17.99.

E. Toys--Fiction; Railroads--Trains--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 31 cm.

PS, PRI. Rating : 5.

This classic tale from our childhood has been re-released with a new illustrator's vision for the book. Previously known as *The Pony Engine*, *The Little Engine That Could* is a moralistic children's story written to teach the value of determination. Some would assert that the book has always been a metaphor for the American dream. We as a nation are fond of the underdog story. Much like Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer, the little Blue Engine overcomes attitudes and obstacles to save the day.

The publishers have revised this edition with beautiful illustrations by Loren Long. The artwork makes the toys seem to come alive. The clown's outfit has been colorfully redesigned. The locomotives have distinct personalities. The passenger engine is a streamlined design with a sneering expression, while the freight engine is a massive machine looming over the tiny clown. The art, done with acrylics, is stylized and still retains a bit of an old-fashioned essence suggestive of a retro '50s look. Captivating characters remain convincing as they learn to work through the challenges presented in the story. The large illustrative vibrant format makes this retelling by Watty Piper an excellent choice for reading to small groups where the children will need to see the pictures from a distance. Highly recommended for all preschool collections.

Rebecca Cress-Ingebo

Max's ABC / Rosemary Wells.

LCCN 2006285725. New York : Viking, 2006.

HBB, 0670060747, 9780670060740, list price: \$15.99.

E. Ants--Fiction; Rabbits--Fiction; English language--Alphabet--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 28 cm.

PRI. Rating : 5.

Max's ABC is a story within an alphabet book. It details the day when Max's ants escape and get into everything. One day, the ants in Max's ant farm escape and he tries everything he can think of to get them back. His big sister comes to the rescue, and the story ends with the ants happily going "home."

Rosemary Wells cleverly integrates a story within the ABCs in this delightful picture book for children ages five to eight. Familiar cartoon characters enhance the fun. *Max's ABC* is best suited to be read aloud, with the reader pointing out the alphabet letters as the story unfolds. This book will appeal to many as it helps young readers identify highlighted letters while enjoying a fun story.

Pam Halter

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The most perfect spot / by Diane Goode. LCCN 2004030058. New York : HarperCollins, 2006.

HBB, 060726970, list price: \$16.99.

E. Mothers and sons--Fiction; Picnicking--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

PRI (PS). Rating : *5.

Jack wakes his mother with the hopes of taking her to the most perfect spot to have a picnic. Unfortunately, things are less than perfect as Jack and his mama contend with mishaps throughout their picnic foray. They may not realize why so much is going wrong, but the reader understands as the story develops. The bright bouncy text blended with onomatopoeia and alliteration make this a definite read aloud

selection.

Award winning illustrator Diane Goode once again presents another classic in the making with *The Most Perfect Spot*. Using her pen and ink illustrative style she captures the jauntiness of the Ragtime Era. The use of emphasizing the repeated line "But suddenly" adds a nice frolic to the mayhem that runs throughout the story. The illustrations and text are balanced, and readers come away feeling that something perfect can be found in a not so perfect day. Readers will enjoy this timeless tale of two people trying to make the best of their day. Young readers will take pleasure in the detail that begins before the first page starts, making this a book to read time and time again.

Pam Webb

Rabbit ears / Amber Stewart ; illustrated by Laura Rankin. LCCN 2005054578. New York : Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2006.

HBB, 1582349592, list price: \$16.95.

E. Rabbits--Fiction; Cleanliness--Fiction; Ears--Fiction; Baths--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 28 cm.

PS. Rating : 3.

Hopscotch, a young rabbit, refuses to wash his ears at bath time even when his mother tries tricking, pleading, and offering chocolate cake to encourage him. He hates to get his ears washed, so bath time becomes a growth hurdle for Hopscotch. One day Hopscotch's big cousin, Bobtail, comes for a sleepover—without his parents. Hopscotch's admiration grows for his big cousin who not only jumps high and long, but he is courageous, too. At dinner, Hopscotch asks his father when he will be allowed to sleep over at Bobtail's, by himself. His father responds, "When you are big, little Hopscotch." That night at bath time, Hopscotch notices Bobtail washing his ears, and he doesn't flinch! Hopscotch decides that "big" rabbits wash

their own ears, and he courageously takes the next step to become "bigger."

Rabbit Ears is a read aloud picture book appropriate for children preschool through kindergarten. Young children will identify with Hopscotch, whose balloon-shaped self-portraits decorate his bedroom walls; and his collections of stuffed animals, books and balls line his shelves. Young listeners will benefit by relating to Hopscotch's universal childhood problem; and his bravery in taking the steps toward maturity and solving his problem.

Laura Rankin's colorful cartoon illustrations in acrylic inks and paints support the story throughout, and beautiful two-page layouts illustrate the drama at critical points in the story. The pictures capture Hopscotch's moment of revelation as he sees Bobtail happily washing his ears; and carry the celebration scene between Hopscotch and his mother. The story presents a satisfying ending.

At times the prose rhythm is difficult to follow, and compound sentence structure and vocabulary will be difficult for most beginning readers.

Vicki Talley McCollum

Rin, rin, rin, do, re, mi / José-Luis Orozco, David Diaz. LCCN 2004018149. New York : Orchard Books, 2005.

HBB, 0439649412, list price: \$16.95.

E. Songs--Fiction; Spanish language materials--Bilingual. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 21 cm.

PS, PRI. Rating : 4.

It's a poem; it's a song; it's a celebration of the close, loving relationship of mom and dad and child. *Rin, Rin, Rin: Do, Re, Mi* is an illustration of all the things families do to help a child become literate. The song lyrics, by José-Luis Orozco, are in Spanish with an English transliteration below. The song moves through the child's day, from the first page where his mom wakes him and the child says, "Let's

sing songs, and we'll have fun!" At dinner the family makes rhymes, and in the market they find words. In the park they count fingers then tell stories in the bath and read before bed. The music is printed in the back of the book with a full translation of the Spanish.

David Diaz's lush illustrations extend across the spread of each page, with the lyrics printed in the white space on one side. The bold, richly colored scenes are full of movement and detail. They are two-dimensional, almost surreal, and the depth of field is so short that the reader is drawn right into the scene. The mixed-media illustrations complement the song lyrics and invite comparisons to a reader's own family. For English readers, it will be difficult to relate the English to Spanish without constant reference to the words in the back.

Diane Carver Sekeres

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Sidney & Norman : a tale of two pigs / by Phil Vischer ; illustrations by Justin Gerard. LCCN 2006005969. Nashville : Tommy Nelson, 2006.

HBB, 1400308348, list price: \$15.99.

Fic. Pigs--Fiction; Neighbors--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 27 cm.

PS (PRI). Rating : *5.

What Phil Vischer does for his creation, Veggie Tales, he does for pigs in his picture book *Sidney & Norman*. Vischer's ability to take biblical truths and turn them into age encompassing lessons goes from cartoon to the page as he updates the parable of the proud Pharisee and the humble sinner. In this case, Norman is the proud pig and Sidney is a humble one. Like Veggie Tales, the lesson is humorous, yet delivers a punch that remains when the book is closed. Both Sidney and Norman wear business suits; however, that's where

the similarity pretty much stops. Sidney is sloppy and Norman is neat. Norman knows God and just about everyone else loves him because he does things right. The opposite is Sidney. He is insecure and generally messes up. How could anyone, especially God, love him? Contrary to Sidney's view of life God does love him. He loves us. He loves everyone. The message Vischer points out so well in this modern parable is that God loves us for who we are and not what we have accomplished.

The warm golden illustrations of Justin Gerard are so appealing. They are cartoon-like and simple, yet they capture each pig's personality perfectly. The personal afterward by Vischer gives an even greater value to the story, making this a book to share with children and adults. Pastors, teachers, and parents will find a meaningful lesson of impact with this tale of two pigs.

Pam Webb

Tucker's apple-dandy day / by Susan Winget. LCCN 2005017787. New York : HarperCollins, 2006.

HBB, 0060546468, list price: \$12.99.

E. Rabbits--Fiction; School field trips--Fiction; Apples--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

PS. Rating : 5.

Tucker, a soft, plump rabbit dressed in denim overalls with plaid flannel cuffs, is going on a field trip with his class to Farmer Sam's apple orchard. He has excitedly promised Mother that he will bring home apples for a pie. Upon arriving at the farm, Tucker becomes interested in studying the big, red tractor and helping his friends with their apple picking. When it begins to rain and the teacher says it is time to leave, Tucker sadly realizes he has not picked any apples for Mother's pie. His friends see his dilemma and share their apples. Tucker proudly brings the apples home, helps Mother bake the pie, and joins the family

in eating the delicious dessert.

Tucker's Apple-Dandy Day by Susan Winget is a follow up to *Tucker's Four-Carrot School Day* (HarperCollins, 2005). Winget fills this preschool picture book with cozy, endearing animals that promote the message of sharing. The watercolor and ink paintings are similar in treatment to *Apple Tree Christmas* by Trinka Hakes Noble (Sleeping Bear Press, 2005; *CLJ*, Dec.2005). Soft browns, olives, and primary colors blend to form the country style autumn illustrations. Homeschoolers and children's librarians will benefit by adding this to their apple season story time collections. You can almost reach out and touch the softness of the shapes and colors. Winget is a freelance artist who has created art for both the White House and the National Trust. Highly recommended for both preschool and public library collections.

Kim Harris

Wake up, Bertha Bear! / by Chad Mason ; illustrated by Chad Wallace. LCCN 2005928857. Camden, Me. : Down East Books, 2005.

HBB, 0892726555, list price: \$15.95.

E. Bears--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 21 x 26 cm.

PS (PRI). Rating : 5.

Bradley Bear, infant cub of Bertha Bear, wakes up from hibernation to his mother's loud snoring and begins to explore the world outside their island den. Singing birds, tickly weeds, and the hope of finding some "yummy bugs" lure Bradley across a frozen lake to the mainland. After a tasty snack, Bradley falls asleep in the limbs of a fir tree. Upon awakening, Bradley, frightened to find himself trapped in an unfamiliar tree, starts crying. Fritz Fox and Stanley Skunk hear Bradley's cries and realize they must find his mother to save him. Leaving Stanley out, because "all [he] knows how to do is stink," Fritz

recruits a variety of forest animals to help locate and rouse Bertha. When the animals gather outside Bertha's den, they find that all of their collective efforts have no effect. Finally, they invite Stanley Skunk to be the "smelling salts" to which Bertha immediately responds. After rescuing Bradley, Fritz concludes that all of the animals truly do need each other.

Wake Up, Bertha Bear! written by Chad Mason and illustrated by Chad Wallace is a personified animals picture book for children. Mason is a former environmental engineer who currently writes articles for various outdoorsman publications. His first children's book clearly translates the message of each individual's importance. Wallace, who specializes in oil paintings of animals and nature, displays finely sketched animals against the soft sleepy backdrop of early spring in the Northeast. Highly recommended for public libraries and one-on-one story times.

Kim Harris

Who's in Maxine's tree / Diane Carmel Léger, Darlene Gait. LCCN 2005935952. Custer, Wash. : Orca Book Publishers, 2006.

HBB, 155143346X, list price: \$17.95.

E. Trees--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 24 x 27 cm.

PRI (INT). Rating : 5.

In *Who's in Maxine's Tree*, author Diane Carmel Léger leads us on a family trip in the forest. On their hike Maxine's family and friends are in search of her favorite tree. Their journey leads them across bridges, over a river, and past a waterfall in the Walbran Valley on Vancouver Island, B.C. Maxine and her cousin Eddie are distraught to see that some of their favorite areas have been cleared away. Maxine becomes increasingly concerned that her favorite tree, one of the largest spruce, could have been cut down. She had claimed this tree with a plank of wood

because of the special sound it made when she hugged its trunk. Finally they spot her tree and happen to meet a tree climber named Stephanie in the process. Stephanie's job is to search for an endangered seabird called the marbled murrelet or mamu. Stephanie climbs Maxine's tree to verify the presence of the protected bird which will ultimately save Maxine's tree, one of the oldest spruce in the forest.

Darlene Gait's designs and paintings gives readers the impression they are deep in the rain forest of British Columbia. The lush wildlife and foliage will transport the book lover to the giant Sitka spruce forest. This storyline is similar to the earlier book *Maxine's Tree* (Orca, 1990) about the Carmanah-Walbran region. Maxine's interest in forest protection in the South Vancouver Island District illustrates a child's innocent concerns for nature and the environment. Recommended for all collections used to promote science and for academic lessons about the preservation of God's creations.

Rebecca Cress-Ingebo

Will, God's mighty warrior / by Sheila Walsh ; illustrated by Meredith Johnson. LCCN 2005037686. Nashville : Tommy Nelson, 2006.

HBB, 1400308054, list price: \$12.99.

E. Family life--Fiction; Play--Fiction; Imagination--Fiction; Christian life--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 26 cm.

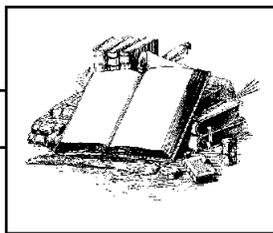
PS. Rating : 3.

Any child would be excited to dream of being a mighty warrior. Will, a young boy, is intrigued by the idea of being God's mighty warrior and wearing God's armor. He is a bit confused because he can't find God's armor. His dad explains that God's armor cannot be seen with human eyes and we use God's armor to fight battles in our hearts. *Will, God's Mighty Warrior* introduces the idea that we

are all warriors and we need to put on the whole armor of God each day.

The book lacks depth; it does not include the scripture Ephesians 6:13-17. For the message it seems to want children to understand, it is too simple. The illustrations are nice, the book theologically solid.

Mary J. McCoy



Akimbo and the elephants / Alexander McCall Smith ; illustrated by LeUyen Pham. LCCN 2005043620. New York : Bloomsbury Children's Books : distributed to the trade by Holtzbrinck Publishers, 2005.

HBB, 1582346860, list price: \$9.95.

Fic. Game reserves--Fiction; Poaching--Fiction; Elephants--Fiction; Africa--Fiction. 68 p. : ill. ; 20 cm.

PRI (INT). Rating : 4.

Akimbo and the lions / Alexander McCall Smith ; illustrated by LeUyen Pham. LCCN 2005043620. New York : Bloomsbury Children's Books : distributed to the trade by Holtzbrinck Publishers, 2005.

HBB, 1582346879, list price: \$9.95.

Fic. Lions--Fiction; Africa--Fiction. 66 p. : ill. ; 20 cm.

PRI (INT). Rating : 4.

Akimbo lives on a game reserve in Africa where his father is a ranger. Because of his father's position, Akimbo is allowed to participate in some of the activities of the game reserve rangers.

In *Akimbo and the Elephants*, Akimbo is bored. His father takes him on a trip out into the reserve and they find an elephant which has been killed for its tusks. Akimbo decides to take matters into his own hands. He "borrows" tusks from a locked room and convinces his parents to let him visit his friend in a nearby village. While there Akimbo asks a suspected smuggler where he can learn to track elephants for their tusks. Akimbo gets involved in a dangerous situation with a group of poachers. Unfortunately the book contains an underlying message that sometimes it is okay to deceive.

In *Akimbo and the Lions*, Akimbo's father takes him along when they track a lion which has been killing a farmer's cattle. The offending lioness gets away,

but her cub is caught in the trap. Akimbo convinces his father to let him raise the cub, and he takes care of it until it grows too big to remain in the village. When he releases the lion into the wild, he wonders if he'll ever see it again.

These titles are well-written, short chapter books with a strong conservation message. They give students a glimpse into the life of a young African boy who lives on a reserve. Smith uses a lot of dialogue and action, which move the plot along quickly. Pham's black and white illustrations depict scenes which will probably be unfamiliar to most readers.

Jane Mouttet

Give me liberty / L.M. Elliott. LCCN 2006018166. New York : Katherine Tegen Books, 2006.

HBB, 0060744219, list price: \$16.99.

Fic. Indentured servants--Fiction; Williamsburg (Va.)--History--Revolution, 1775-1783--Fiction; Virginia--History--Revolution, 1775-1783--Fiction; United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783--Fiction. 376 p. : map ; 22 cm.

INT. Rating : 5.

Nathaniel Dunn, an indentured servant in Colonial America, must endure a life of hardship and loss. His mother dies of fever, and his father abandons him. Nathaniel gains a friend, Moses, a slave on the Virginia plantation where they serve, but "Master" declares bankruptcy and sells them. Kindly schoolmaster, Basil Wilkinson, intervenes on Nathaniel's behalf, and when Nathaniel offers Basil his grandfather's flute, instead, of taking it, the schoolmaster teaches him to play. While living with Basil, and working at a carriage house, Nathaniel meets Ben, a young Patriot. The Revolutionary War looms as each character wrestles with the meaning of liberty and the need to choose a side.

Written for readers aged nine and older,

Give Me Liberty revolves around Nathaniel, Basil, and Ben, and the carriage shop which becomes a cauldron of Loyalist and Patriot sympathies. Readers will root for Nathaniel, whose knowledge of horses and desire to learn work to his advantage.

Elliott depicts colonial superstition. For example, Nathaniel's loyalty to Moses leads him to steal money from Basil. He replaces it, but decides that "since he hadn't told him he'd taken the money, he couldn't tell him he'd replaced it." Nathaniel believes he can judge the souls of strangers by their reactions to his unique eyes: "those afraid of devils looked away, kindness smiled." His father "cursed them as bewitched." Yet, through all his experiences, he holds to his mother's words, "love hopes all things."

Nathaniel is exposed to a philosophy that desires freedom from the King, and a church that mandates attendance or fines. "We are not in need of higher authorities... Man's God-given common sense is (our) best ruler."

Give Me Liberty will encourage discussion over important issues such as slavery, and the opposing views of friends on the eve of Revolution. Together, Nathaniel and Ben learn American principles such as liberty and the "nobility of common man."

Vicki Talley McCollum

Rosa takes a chance : Mexican immigrants in the Dust Bowl years / Susan Martins Miller. (Sisters in time.) Ulrichsville, Ohio : Barbour Publishing, 2006.

PAP, 1597890650, list price: \$7.95.

Fic. Mexican-Americans--Fiction; Depression--1929--Fiction. 140 p. ; 22 cm.

Janie's freedom : African-Americans in the aftermath of the Civil War / Callie Smith Grant.

(Sisters in time.) Ulrichsville, Ohio : Barbour Publishing, 2006.

PAP, 1597890863, list price: \$7.95.

Fic. Reconstruction (U.S. history) 1865-1877--Fiction; African-Americans--Fiction. 144 p. ; 22 cm.

Laura's victory : end of the Second World War / Veda Boyd Jones . (Sisters in time.) Ulrichsville, Ohio : Barbour Publishing, 2006.

PAP, 1597891037, list price: \$7.95.

Fic. World War, 1939-1945--Fiction; Japanese-Americans--Fiction. 144 p. ; 22 cm.

Lizzie and the Redcoat : stirrings of revolution in the American colonies / Susan Martins Miller. (Sisters in time.) Ulrichsville, Ohio : Barbour Publishing, 2006.

PAP, 1597891010, list price: \$7.95.

Fic. United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783--Fiction. 143 p. ; 22 cm.

Nellie the brave : the Cherokee Trail of Tears / Veda Boyd Jones . (Sisters in time.) Ulrichsville, Ohio : Barbour Publishing, 2006.

PAP, 1597890707, list price: \$7.95.

Fic. Trail of Tears, 1828--Fiction; Cherokee Indians--History--Fiction; Indians of North America--Southern States--History--Fiction. 140 p. ; 22 cm.

INT. Rating : 5.

Rosa Takes a Chance, by Susan Martins Miller, is about ten-year-old Rosa Sanchez, a Mexican-American girl who lives with her extended family in a small house on a ranch where her father is employed. Rosa has a love for learning, and fortunately she meets people who enjoy teaching her. But as the storms worsen in the "Dust Bowl" where she lives, Rosa is faced with losing her teachers as they too join the families moving from Texas in search of a better life elsewhere. Will her family also decide to leave, in an attempt to survive? *Janie's Freedom*, by Callie Smith Grant,

tells the story of eleven-year-old Janie, a slave girl newly-freed after the end of the Civil War. Rubyhill Plantation has been her home for most of her young life, and now Janie is told she is free to go. With no family at the plantation, Janie decides to leave Georgia to head north with four others in search of work and a new life. With only the clothes they can scrounge from the dilapidated house, and a small amount of food to share amongst them, the five ex-slaves begin their journey north. What awaits Janie and the others as they face living in freedom?

Laura Edwards is a ten-year-old girl caught in the throes of World War II in *Laura's Victory* by Veda Boyd Jones. As the war drags on, Laura continues to pray for her big brother, Bruce, who is away fighting, and she hopes it will end soon. Laura's eleven-year-old brother, Eddie, is struck down with polio, but survives and battles back from the dreaded disease. When a Japanese-American family moves into the hotel her parents own, Laura must gather her courage and defend her new friend from the prejudices of her schoolmates.

Twelve-year-old Lizzie Murray lives in 1765 Boston, Massachusetts, in the *Sisters in Time* story called *Lizzie and the Redcoat*, also by Susan Martins Miller. Mobs roam the streets attacking British soldiers and agents in an attempt to force them to return to England. Lizzie watches as the citizens of Boston take sides—some joining the Patriots who believe America should be free from England's rule, and some becoming Loyalists and remaining loyal to the Crown. This violence will eventually lead to the Revolutionary War, during which young Lizzie tries to remember that God is still in control.

Nellie Starr is a twelve-year-old Cherokee girl in the story *Nellie the Brave*, also by Veda Boyd Jones. In this

book, set in 1838, Nellie's family is forced to leave their Tennessee home because white settlers want their land, and the politicians say they must move to a reservation, leaving many of their possessions behind. Nellie and her family travel with thousands of others much like them along a "Trail of Tears," facing many hardships on their journey. Only Nellie's faith and courage help to keep her spirits alive as she travels to her new home.

Barbour Publishing has released five new additions to the *Sisters in Time* series. These wonderful historical fiction stories are mainly for young girls ages eight to twelve, but will also appeal to other ages and even some boys. Each book features a pre-teen girl living in a certain time period in history, and how she deals with the problems she encounters during that time period. Fans of *Dear America* and *American Girl* books will enjoy the *Sisters in Time* series, with the additional benefit of a Christian moral lesson thread running through each story. Entertaining, engaging, and educational, this is one series of historical youth fiction not to be bypassed. The series would make an excellent addition to any personal, school, or church library.

Sherri Myers

The last brother : a Civil War tale / written by Trinkia Hakes Noble ; illustrated by Robert Papp. LCCN 2005029529. Chelsea, Mich : Sleeping Bear Press, 2006.

HBB, 1585362530, list price: \$17.95.

Fic. Bugle--Fiction; Brothers--Fiction; Gettysburg, Battle of, Gettysburg, Pa., 1863--Fiction; United States--History--Civil War, 1862-1865--Fiction. 48 p. : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

INT. Rating : 5.

When Gabe's two oldest brothers, Joshua and Tucker, march off to join the

Union Army in 1863, they assure their Ma and Pa that it is only for ninety days. They even joke that they couldn't expect their two little brothers - runts they called them - to bring in the harvest. Those ninety days become forever, as Joshua and Tucker never return. Gabe then knows that his brother Davy will enlist, and that he will follow. Gabe becomes the bugler, blowing with every intention of keeping the men safe, particularly Davy. In a chance encounter he meets Orlee, the bugler for the Confederates, and this encounter changes his destiny and that of the entire 71st Infantry in one of the deadliest battles of the war.

Told with respect and honor for all those who served in the Civil War, *The Last Brother* will be a wonderful addition to a public library or school library collection. Although written in a picture book form, *The Last Brother* will be most appropriate for fourth and fifth grade students. The story will flesh out for the students the emotions and characters of the war, and Robert Papp's superb illustrations bring the story to life.

Trina Hakes Noble relates to readers that her inspiration for *The Last Brother* came from her own family history. Sometimes called "the boys' war," the Civil War saw many as young as eleven enlist to serve. One large Hakes family sent all their sons, and only the youngest returned. This is his story.

Cecil Carey

Mom and Dad are palindromes : a dilemma for words-- backwards / by Mark Shulman ; illustrated by Adam McCauley. LCCN 2005023614. San Francisco : Chronicle Books, 2006.

HBB, 811843289, list price: \$15.95.

Fic. Palindromes--Fiction. 1 v. (unpaged) : col. ill. ; 24 cm.

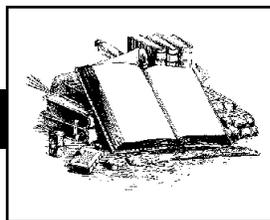
PRI (INT). Rating : 4.

Bob has a problem: he's a palindrome. He soon discovers that not only is he a palindrome but the same holds true for his sisters Anna and Nan, his puppy dog Otto, and of course his mom and dad. No matter where he goes he discovers palindromes are there waiting for him. By the book's end Bob realizes palindromes aren't a syndrome, a threat, or even a cause for alarm, and he learns to live with them.

Readers who enjoy witty and thought-provoking books such as *Math Curse* by Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith (p, d) will want to add Mark Shulman and Adam McCauley's *Mom and Dad Are Palindromes* to their collection. The mixed media illustrations and variegating texts are entertaining, as well as enlightening, since the author has hidden more palindromes within the story.

Young readers will find this to be an delightful way to understand one of those nuances of the English language: the palindrome. Teachers will find this a useful addition to English lessons, and even adults who crave fun-with-meaning children's books will delight in Bob's predicament.

Pam Webb



Battlefield of the mind for kids / Joyce Meyer, with Karen Moore. LCCN 2005035537. New York : Warner Faith, 2006.

PAP, 0446691259, list price: \$10.99.

248.8/2. Spiritual warfare--Juvenile literature; Thought and thinking--Religious aspects--Christianity; Christian children--Religious life. 170 p. : ill. ; 21 cm.

INT (MS). Rating : 4.

Battlefield of the mind for teens : winning the battle in your mind / Joyce Meyer with Todd Hafer. LCCN 2005034011. New York : Warner Faith, 2006.

PAP, 0446697648, list price: \$10.99.

248.8/3. Spiritual warfare; Thought and thinking--Religious aspects--Christianity; Christian teenagers--Religious life. 153 p. ; 21 cm.

HS (MS). Rating : 4.

Negotiating the daily struggles for independence, against peer pressure, and through personal and adult expectations can be torture. In *Battlefield of the Mind for Teens*, authors Joyce Meyer and Todd Hafer use quizzes, pertinent statistical facts, and biblically-based advice to present a straightforward look at the most intense conflicts teens face every day, the battles of the mind. Bibliography and end notes are included. Scripture references are taken from the King James Version, New King James Version, New International Version, the Living Bible, the New American Standard Bible, and the Amplified versions of the Holy Bible.

In *Battlefield of the Mind for Kids*, authors Joyce Meyer and Karen Moore point out that kids face difficult choices every day at school, at play, and even at home. As they mature, their emotions can seem to swing out of control. Trendy language, perky illustrations, poetry, quizzes, and contemporary stories are mixed with grass roots Christian theology to appeal to today's tweens, or young teens. Scripture

references are taken from the New Living Translation, the New International Version, and the New Century Version of the Holy Bible. Pen and ink illustrations by Brian Byers hold popular appeal.

Both teens and tweens are instructed to:

Read the Bible daily and consult it for answers to life's questions.

Think before you act.

Don't just follow the crowd into trouble.

In any given situation, try to do what Jesus would do.

Recognize old habits that get you into trouble, and change them.

Be careful with whom you hang out.

Though often didactic, strategies and advice are consistently sound. Both books are derived from the popular self-help book, *Battlefield of the Mind: Winning the Battle in Your Mind* by Joyce Meyer (Warner Faith, 2002). Recommended as tools to facilitate better parent-to-teen or parent-to-tween relations or as small group study guides.

Kim Harris

Digital technology / Chris Woodford. (Science in focus.) LCCN 2006041011. New York : Chelsea House, 2006.

HBB, 0791088618, list price: \$27.00.

621.381. Information technology; Electronics; Digital electronics. 47 p. : ill. ; 30 cm.

INT, MS. Rating : 5.

Weather / Richard and Louise Spilsbury. (Science in focus.) LCCN 2006040222. New York : Chelsea House, 2006.

HBB, 0791088596, list price: \$27.00.

551.6. Climatology; Weather. 47 p. : ill. ; 30 cm.

INT, MS. Rating : 5.

The earth's resources / Richard and Louise Spilsbury. (Science in

focus.) LCCN 2006041010. New York : Chelsea House, 2006.

HBB, 0791088634, list price: \$27.00.

333.7. Natural resources--Management; Conservation of natural resources; Environmental protection. 47 p. : ill. ; 30 cm.

INT, MS. Rating : 4.

Genetics / Anna Claybourne. (Science in focus.) LCCN 2006006532. New York : Chelsea House, 2006.

HBB, 079108860X, list price: \$27.00.

576.5. Genetics. 47 p. : ill. ; 30 cm.

INT, MS. Rating : 5.

The solar system / Anna Claybourne. (Science in focus.) LCCN 2006006535. New York : Chelsea House, 2006.

HBB, 0791088626, list price: \$27.00.

523.2. Solar system. 47 p. : ill. ; 30 cm.

INT, MS. Rating : 5.

The Science in Focus series is a well written introductory science series for upper elementary. Each book takes a broad look at a specific field of science. The information is presented in two page spreads beginning with an overall view of the subject. Brightly colored textboxes throughout the chapters highlight important information such as History Focus or Fact Focus. There are also Evidence Focus textboxes which lead the reader to think critically about the information described in the text and to test what they have learned. The text is enhanced with timely photographs and diagrams. Timeline, Glossary, and Further Information sections are included at the end of each book to supplement the information presented. Of special interest are the educational websites listed in the Further Information section.

Digital Technology. Many upper elementary students may not understand the term, digital technology, but they do recognize many of the components that

comprise the term. This volume will help them understand how many of the technologies they take for granted fit into our world. Digital Technology presents the basis for digital technology and then branches out to the many forms of digital technology the reader will recognize: CDs and DVDs, MMP3 players, digital images, the Internet, and mobile phones. The text also introduces the reader to new technologies such as smart cards, computer-aided design, special effects, and digital networks. The information is presented in small sections enhanced by pictures and diagrams, making it painless for even the reluctant reader. The final chapter discusses the positive and negative aspects of the digital age, giving the reader something to think about.

Weather. Everyone is intrigued by weather, especially children. The first chapters of this book provide a nice introduction to weather and climate. Then the different facets of weather such as clouds, temperature, atmosphere, precipitation, wind, thunder and lightning, weather systems, and weather forecasting are discussed. Each chapter takes a small facet of the topic and in a paragraph or two simply explains the subject. The photographs and drawings are good. In the climate change chapter several references are made to the climate 450 million years ago or Earth experiencing an ice age every 1000,000 years. (pg. 40, 41)

The Earth's Resources. Conservation and how we use our natural resources are ideas that all children need to understand. This volume introduces the reader to the concept of renewable and non-renewable resources. This information provides a great opportunity for discussing how God has provided all the resources we need to survive but we need to use them wisely. How energy is created by various resources such as

wind, water, and heat is explained. The innovative uses of wind, geothermal, and biomass power are discussed in an effort to highlight the need to find alternate ways of generating electricity. The last two chapters discuss resource lifespan and sustainable resource use. These chapters lead readers to consider how they can be a good citizens of our natural resources.

Genetics. Everyone has heard about cloning but how do you explain that to child? Genetics is a very complicated and often controversial subject. This volume begins with an explanation of the cell and then moves to explain DNA, genes, and chromosomes and how they work. Once this foundation of genetics is developed, genetic traits, genetic diseases, cloning, genetic medicines, and genetic engineering are discussed. I would recommend this book for an older age group, at least junior high, because of the complexity of the subject matter and the controversy surrounding DNA and genetic engineering. Although the pros and cons of genetic engineering are presented it is could be a little frightening to younger children.

Solar System. What child doesn't look at the sun, the moon, and the stars and wonder how it all came to be? The origins of the universe are discussed in this volume. The Big Bang theory is described as happening 13,000 million years ago with the added statement that if the Big Bang theory is correct no one knows why it happened. Each of the planets is explained in detail and the text is supported by pictures of the planet's surface. Solar System explains why Pluto and the recently-discovered Sedna are not considered planets. The age of the sun and planets is stated as 4,600 million years ago or more, which may be confusing to some children.

Mary J. McCoy

The Kingfisher science encyclopedia / [contributors, Clive Gifford . [et al.]. Updated ed., 2006. LCCN 2006298278. Boston : Kingfisher, 2006.

HBB, 0753458861, list price: \$24.95.

503. Science--Encyclopedias. vii, 488 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 29 cm.

INT, MS. Rating : 4.

The Kingfisher Science Encyclopedia, an authoritative resource contains an abundance of information on science and technology. Previously published in 2000, it has received some updating. Most of the updating is in the "Space and Time" chapter to reflect recent discoveries. Arrangement is topical, with 10 chapters covering subjects such as "Light and Energy," "Human Biology," and "Electricity and Electronics." Within chapters, following a brief introduction, approximately 27 entries in each section cover a variety of smaller topics. Entries often extend over two pages with colorful photographs, diagrams, drawings, cutaways, and other illustrations expanding on the written text. There are more than 2,000 colorful illustrations. Each chapter closes with a page of "Facts and Figures." Changes have been made to the "Facts and Figures" pages; for example, several lists of "Key Dates" now include twenty-first-century advances. All topics are cross-referenced to entries containing related material. A "Ready Reference" section in the back of the volume includes units of measurement, conversion tables, geometric shapes, and brief descriptions of important scientists and discoveries.

Not a true encyclopedia, *The Kingfisher Science Encyclopedia* is more like an encyclopedic textbook on science subjects. A two-page glossary has a sidebar devoted to computer terms. Limited index, but contains a detailed table of contents. Good resource for

middle school and homeschoolers.

Rebecca Cress-Ingebo

Resumes for children : 17 years old and under ; yes, really! / by Donna Kristine Manley. Conyers, Ga. : Christiana Press, 2006.

PAP, 0977783502, list price: \$14.99; order direct online, Bookch.com.

650.14. Resumes. 99 p. ; 29 cm.

All ages. Rating : 5.

As society becomes more and more competitive in every area of life, most parents are always looking for ways to give their child any advantage they can find. In *Resumes for Children 17 Years Old and Under*, Donna Kristine Manley gives parents a new tool to help give their child an edge in being successful through a collection of sample resumes. Yes, resumes just like Mom and Dad have.

Although it may sound strange, this is actually a clever idea. Manley gives 21 prototype resumes covering such career goals as Aspiring Pilot, Sign Language Interpreter, Craftsman, and Aspiring Marine Biologist. They are examples of resumes for children six to 17 years old. Naturally, the resumes are designed to illustrate the basic components of building a resume, and to get parents and their child thinking about the types of items they can include in the child's resume. In addition to helping the family to focus on the child's interests, the resumes also boost the child's self-esteem as he sees his skills and knowledge increasing as the resume grows.

Another handy feature is the section on sample cover letters. Manley demonstrates how to write letters seeking sponsors for overseas experiences, a competition, or to participate in a camp. The samples are well crafted, concise, and can be easily

adapted. Manley offers two pages of idea starters and there are 40 lined pages for collecting Reflections, Ideas, and Resources. This book is a great resource for parents to help prepare their child for the real world while giving them insights into his interests and skills.

Jeff Friend

Built to last : building America's amazing bridges, dams, tunnels, and skyscrapers / George Sullivan. LCCN 2004060996. New York : Scholastic Nonfiction, 2005.

HBB, 0439517370, list price: \$18.99.

624/.0973. Civil engineering--United States--History--Juvenile literature. 128 p. : ill. (some col.), col. maps ; 24 x 32 cm.

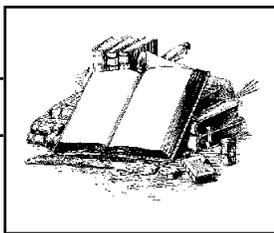
All ages. Rating : 5.

Using photographs, period sketches and diagrams, narrative text, side bars, and captions, George Sullivan introduces the reader to seventeen architectural and engineering accomplishments in the United States. *Built to Last* is divided into time periods starting with The Early Republic and continuing to the present. The structures represented in the book include the Erie Canal, the transcontinental railroad, the Hoover Dam, and the Sears Tower. The narrative tells the story of building each of these. The side bars and captions include additional tidbits of information. Illustrations of period sketches and diagrams add to the historical value and full color photographs (including double page spreads) bring the structure into the current day.

Younger children will enjoy looking at the pictures, elementary students can learn from the shorter captions and side bars without reading the entire text, and older readers could use the book for research or just to gain information. The book closes with suggestions for further reading, web sites to visit, and an index.

Built to Last was a 2006 James Madison Award honor book.

Jane Mouttet



Deep cut / by Susan Rosson Spain.
LCCN 2006001463. New York :
Marshall Cavendish, 2006.

HBB, 0761453164, list price: \$16.99.

Fic. Fathers and sons--Fiction; People with mental disabilities--Fiction; United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Fiction; Virginia--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Fiction. vi, 217 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.

MS. Rating : 4.

Told from the viewpoint of Lonzo, a mentally disabled teen, *The Deep Cut* is a historically accurate, thoughtful portrayal of the Civil War in the South. Lonzo, knowing he is slow, wants to understand his role in the world and seeks his father's approval. When the war begins, Lonzo helps his aunt care for his grandparents and manage her inn a few miles from home. His uncles and cousin have gone off to fight with the Confederates. As the Union takes over his hometown, Lonzo learns the horrors of war firsthand. If he doesn't understand why the war is happening, he knows exactly why he hates the Yankees.

Lonzo sees his world simply, as maybe it should be. He recognizes good and bad, but doesn't distinguish the reasons why. When his cousin Ferdy, severely wounded both mentally and physically, returns from the war, he cares for him. When he encounters a Yankee soldier, he sees the individual enemy as good. When his aunt poisons some biscuits, intended for Yankee soldiers, Lonzo must choose right or wrong.

Susan Rosson Spain wrote this moving tale of the Civil War based on a true story from the author's family. Readers of *Deep Cut* will appreciate the perspective of the mentally disabled and question the evil characterization of all enemies. This book is an excellent companion to history lessons on the Civil War. My 6th grade student reviewer enjoyed the book, but wonders if others will pick it up without a nudge

from a parent or teacher.

Kristine Wildner

Doctor Adrian : a story of old Holland / by Deborah Alcock.
(Reformation trail series.) LCCN
2004000434. Neerlandia, Alta. :
Inheritance Publications, 2004.

PAP, 1894666054, list price: \$13.99.

Fic. William I, Prince of Orange, 1533-1589--Fiction; Inquisition--Spain--Fiction; Leiden (Netherlands)--History--Siege, 1573-1574--Fiction; Netherlands--History--Fiction. 330 p. : ill. ; 21 cm.

HS (Adult). Rating : 4.

In the turbulent period of the Reformation in Holland, late sixteenth century, Doctor Adrian, a nonreligious man, takes in a Protestant preacher and his daughter who are fleeing persecution. He gradually comes to put his faith in the Reformation movement and falls in love with the girl he is protecting. Exciting events from history transpire as the doctor and his family endure the siege of Leiden. When tragedy hits the doctor's life, he begins to develop his personal relationship with God, learning to lean on God as a person rather than on a creed or system of belief.

The author, Deborah Alcock, died in 1913 and this reprint contains somewhat outdated language. However, teens that are strong readers will not mind this, as *Doctor Adrian : a story of old Holland* contains plenty of suspense and exciting situations. The reader can sympathize with the various characters and the ordeals they faced at this unique time, constantly wondering what intrigue will happen next. Strong description helps to make events of history real to the reader. Occasional illustrations sprinkled throughout help visualize the story, particularly the sixteenth century dress. Spiritual value abounds as the testimony of those whose faith was tried and found

true is described in changes to the characters' lives. The book is recommended to homeschoolers and to other young people or adults who wish to learn more about church history in an enjoyable way.

Susan Joy Clark

Ellanor's exchange / by Linda Hayner.
LCCN 2005013011.
Greenville, S.C. : JourneyForth,
2005.

PAP, 1591664624, list price: \$7.49.

Fic. Pym, John, 1584-1643--Fiction; Courts and courtiers--Fiction; Spies--Fiction; Courtship--Fiction; Great Britain--History--Charles I, 1625-1649--Fiction; London (England)--History--17th century--Fiction. 195 p. ; 22 cm.

HS. Rating : 3.

In Linda Hayner's young adult novel *Ellanor's Exchange*, fourteen-year-old Ellanor is not prepared for marriage. However she is expected to elevate the status of her merchant class family by marrying a man with a title. Set in the 1640s, Ellanor's family sends her to the court of King Charles I to find a husband. Instead she finds herself in the middle of political intrigue between parliament and the king. Marriage becomes the last thing on Ellanor's mind as she risks her freedom and her life to do what she believes is right.

Ellanor's Exchange is a simple and relatively easy to read novel. It will familiarize the reader with a different time period. The addition of an author's note or having Ellanor deal with the implications of her decisions would have improved the understanding of the characters and events. Ellanor's actions are clearly led by loyalty and love but it is unclear whether her possibly traitorous decisions are justified. Resolving this issue would enhance the story and bring it to a more complete conclusion.

Christine J. Ewing

Just ask / Melody Carlson. (Diary of a teenage girl. Kim ; 1.) LCCN 2005008708. Sisters, Ore. : Multnomah Publishers, 2005.

PAP, 1590523210, list price: \$12.99.

Fic. Diaries--Fiction; Advice columns--Fiction; Korean Americans--Fiction; Adoption--Fiction; Interpersonal relations--Fiction. 250 p. ; 21 cm.

Meant to be / Melody Carlson. (Diary of a teenage girl. Kim ; 2.) LCCN 2005014376. Sisters, Ore. : Multnomah Publishers, 2005.

PAP, 1590523229, list price: \$12.99.

Fic. Diaries--Fiction; Advice columns--Fiction; Korean Americans--Fiction; Mothers--Fiction; Cancer--Fiction. 271 p. ; 21 cm.

Falling up / Melody Carlson. (Diary of a teenage girl. Kim ; 3.) LCCN 2005025584. Sisters, Ore. : Multnomah Publishers, 2006.

PAP, 1590523245, list price: \$12.99.

Fic. Diaries--Fiction; Advice columns--Fiction; Korean Americans--Fiction; Grief--Fiction; Pregnancy--Fiction. 260 p. ; 21 cm.

That was then—/ by Melody Carlson. (Diary of a teenage girl. Kim ; 4.) LCCN 2006000693. Sisters, Ore. : Multnomah Publishers, 2006.

PAP, 159052425X, list price: \$12.99.

Fic. Diaries--Fiction; Advice columns--Fiction; Korean Americans--Fiction; Marriage--Fiction; Pregnancy--Fiction; Mothers and daughters--Fiction. 258 p. ; 21 cm.

HS. Rating : 3.

Melody Carlson's popular Diary of a Teenage Girl books continue with a four-volume series about an entirely new character. Kim is a Korean adoptee raised by American parents in an upper middle class American suburb. Written in the first person to resemble actual diaries, the books follow Kim's life during her last two years of high school. She writes a teen advice column for the local paper, dates a non-Christian boy, deals with her adoptive mother's death from ovarian cancer, and watches a pregnant friend enter a hasty marriage to

the baby's father. She handles the pressure when her own biological mom contacts her but through it all, she struggles with her growing Christian faith.

The books are spin-offs of the Chloe volumes of Diary of a Teenage Girl, and Chloe makes a frequent cameo appearance. Since the Chloe books are themselves spin-offs of Dobson's original series about Caitlin O'Connor, Caitlin and friends also make appearances in the Kim books. (It's Caitlin's brother who impregnates and marries Kim's friend, Natalie.)

The series portrays a teen girl's unedited thoughts, warts and all, meaning the characters, especially Kim, often come across as selfish, manipulative, judgmental, and unlikable. But they are also shown struggling with issues real teens face. Characters smoke and use profanity (never specified, although minced oaths like "freaking" are common), gamble, drink, and have sex (conversations refer to "going both ways" or "turning tricks"), and are abused by "wasted" parents. While it's mostly her friends who do these things, Kim engages in heavy make out sessions with her boyfriend, has a nervous breakdown and begins taking anti-anxiety medicine (Book #3, Falling Up), and considers becoming a Buddhist (Book #1, Just Ask). The point, of course, is to show how "God can make sense out of the worst chaos" and to show teens the consequences of such situations. Part of the teen marriage subplot had the fictional Natalie meeting another teen mother mired in poverty so Natalie could see what awaited her, yet it didn't stop her from getting married.

While the diary format makes the books intimate, it means there are lengthy passages of description with little dialog or action. It also makes the characters seem flat and underdeveloped. The

sheer abundance of crises the characters face, make the stories soap opera-ish. Yet the books are strongly Christian. There's much discussion of Jesus and the Holy Spirit, and the "good" characters attend church and youth group (with detailed discussions of what goes on there). Their frequent use of "Christianese," however, and a preference to associate only with "saved" kids while attempting to convert unsaved classmates would probably alienate non-Christian readers.

Rosemarie DiCristo

Geronimo / Joseph Bruchac. LCCN 2005050007. New York : Scholastic Press, 2006.

HBB, 0439353602, list price: \$16.99.

Fic. Geronimo, 1829-1909--Fiction; Apache Indians--Wars--Fiction; Apache Indians--Kings and rulers--Fiction. 360 p. ; 22 cm.

HS (MS). Rating : 4.

Joseph Bruchac uses a fictional orphan who calls him Grandfather to tell the story of Geronimo after their surrender to the White Eyes (U.S. Army). The majority of the text focuses on the removal of the Chiricahua Apache to Florida and later to Alabama and Oklahoma. The trials they faced trying to assimilate into the culture of the White Eyes (American life) and the grief of those whose children had been sent to Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania are seen through the eyes of the narrator.

Geronimo is well-researched, but because of the storytelling aspect of the book it does not necessarily draw the reader in. The action is all presented as retelling of past events. The book has value in the study of the Chiricahua Apache and the life of Geronimo in that it is based on primary resources.

Jane Mouttet

Just for you to know / Cheryl

**Harness. LCCN 2006281855.
New York : HarperCollins, 2006.**

HBB, 0060783133, list price: \$16.99.
Fic. Family life--Fiction. 308 p. ; 22 cm.
MS (INT). Rating : 5.

Twelve-year-old Carmen's family is moving – again. This time they move to Independence, Missouri on Decoration Day, May 31, 1963. The only girl, and the oldest in a family of six children, Carmen is tired of moving and tired having to tolerate her five younger brothers. An aspiring artist, she needs her freedom. As she adjusts to life in the city, Carmen makes friends with her neighbor and learns that her mother is pregnant again. Now Carmen has to assume even more responsibility for her younger brothers.

When the baby is born, Carmen gains a sister, but loses her mother. She now faces challenges tougher than she ever thought possible. Not only does she mourn the death of her mother, at the same time she must console her father, care for a newborn, manage her brothers, and start junior high school! Her life is spinning out of control, and Carmen must give up her precious art, as she rises to tackle the responsibilities of her new life.

Cheryl Harness's first novel cuts to the heart of growing up in a large family. Although interspersed with facts about civil rights movement and its affect on families in Missouri, the book is mostly realistic fiction. Its focus on school and family responsibilities will appeal to girls from all sorts of backgrounds, but particularly those in large families. The book conveys traditional moral values and language. The conversational organization of the dialogue and third person narrative make it an easy, enjoyable read.

Kristine Wildner

**Listen! / Stephanie S. Tolan.
LCCN 2005017792. New York :
HarperCollins, 2006.**

HBB, 0060579358, list price: \$15.99.
Fic. Death--Fiction; Mothers--Fiction;
Accidents--Fiction; Dogs--Training--Fiction;
Charlotte (N.C.)--Fiction. 197 p. : map ; 22 cm.
MS (INT). Rating : 4.

Listen!, by Stephanie S. Tolan's, describes Charley's difficult emotional and physical journey of healing from the loss of her photographer mother several years before, a loss brought to mind not only each time she sees the book her mom wrote, or a photograph she shot, but in every part of the woods that her mother loved. Each plant and creature were important to her mother, a love passed along to Charley.

The physical journey of healing from a horrific automobile accident is hard but her emotions are even more difficult. Coyote, a wild dog that Charley is determined to tame, seems to be the key. The changes that occur in *Listen!* over one hot summer produce healing for her shattered leg and her shattered emotions. This beautifully written book concerns the pain of loss and the joy of possibilities regained. Although this quiet, thoughtful book *Listen!* will not appeal to everyone, it will definitely have an audience, who will be left with memories of a summer of solitude for a girl struggling to make sense of the hurt in her life.

Ceil Carey

**Margaret's print shop : a novel of
the Anabaptist reformation /
Elwood E. Yoder. LCCN
2005009383. Scottsdale, Pa. :
Herald Press, 2005.**

PAP, 0836193032, list price: \$14.99.
Fic. Printing--Fiction; Anabaptists--Fiction;
Women printers--Fiction; Strasbourg (France)--
Fiction; Christian fiction; Historical fiction.
327 p. : port. ; 21 cm.

HS (Adult). Rating : 4.

Margaret's Print Shop focuses on the early 16th century, in the days of Martin Luther. Witches were burned, peasants toiled to fill the coffers of nobles, and Anabaptists defied the church by insisting on being baptized after their salvation experience rather than before. It was also a time when the "new" printing press was changing the world, print shop by print shop, one of which is Margaret's. This is a story of her escalating sympathies with the Anabaptist reformation coupled with her increasing romantic attraction to Balthaser Beck, another printer. Both must decide whether to join the Anabaptists in belief and deed, which would lead to persecution by the Inquisition and the dominant powers' determination to thwart any ideology threatening them.

This novel is an excellent history book, which is its greatest strength, and, at the same time, its greatest weakness. It tends to be heavy on narrative and leave the reader observing history rather than being immersed in it. Nevertheless, the reader will close the back cover of the novel with a better understanding of the early Anabaptist struggle and the inspiring sacrifices they made for their faith. The spiritual insight and fascinating history make it worth the read.

William Patrick Davis

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**Rise of the Dibor / by Christopher
Hopper. (The white lion
chronicles ; 1.) LCCN
2006012836. Reedley, Calif. :
Tsaba House, 2006.**

PAP, 0972548602, list price: \$16.99.
Fic. Fantasy. 453 p. ; 23 cm.
HS (Adult). Rating : *5.

In Dionia, a world in which Adam and Eve choose not to sin, humans enjoy daily, intimate fellowship with God. Lush, green fields are dotted with lavish crops. Mountains rise with royal majesty against clear blue skies. Trees are not limited to a single fruit, but display a succulent variety of tasty goodness. As carefree young teens, Luik, Fane, Anorra and Hadrian romp and play through the hills of Dionia, explore mysterious caves, and excel in village games. Their paths diverge for a time, until all but one are reunited for the ultimate battle between good and evil.

When Morgui, or Satan, presents himself as an angel of light, enticing some of God's people to sin, even nature commences to change. Trees begin to die, temperatures drop, and breathing becomes increasingly difficult. As Morgui builds his demonic forces for the attack on Dionia, all but a very few are naively unaware of their impending peril.

Rise of the Dibor by Christopher Hopper, book one of The White Lion Chronicles, is Christian fantasy fiction at its best. In epic prose, Hopper narrates the story of four friends who grow up in a Garden of Eden world, only to find themselves faced with an all-consuming evil. He deftly interweaves human strengths and frailties with light romance and high adventure. Lengthy descriptions and virgin linguistics make for a slow start but soon evolve into a masterpiece that heralds shades of both C.S. Lewis' Chronicles of Narnia and J.R.R. Tolkien's Lord of the Rings. Highly recommended for both public and school libraries and all Christian fantasy collections.

Kim Harris

Runt / V.M. Caldwell. LCCN 2005027358. Minneapolis :

Milkweed Editions, 2006.

PAP, 1571316620, list price: \$16.95.

Fic. Brothers and sisters--Fiction; Cancer--Fiction; Friendship--Fiction. 196 p. ; 21 cm.

HS. Rating : 3; not recommended.

Twelve-year-old Runt goes through hardships that would make anyone cringe. He lost his parents, became separated from his family, and lived without genuine love until he is reunited with his older sister who lives in a trailer park. Runt's fortunes take a turn for the better when he meets Mitch, a young man dying from cancer. The story shows the importance of virtues such as encouragement, self-sacrificial love, communication, and remaining positive amongst the difficulties of life.

Unfortunately, *Runt*, by V.M. Caldwell, presents many themes that are not only un-Christian but explicitly anti-Christian. For example, Runt's mother uses Christian cliches such as the "Lord's will" (p.63) to act with cruelty. An anti-Christian perspective is made explicitly where Runt's sister states, "if it was the Lord's will to strike a sleeping baby, then I didn't believe in the Lord anymore" (p. 57). In several places God's name is used in vain as a way to disparage religion in general. In addition, there are several occurrences of various swear words that would make this inappropriate for young adults. Death is portrayed as something to be talked about but beyond which there is no hope or existence (p. 152).

David H. Wenkel

Summer of the war / Gloria Whelan. LCCN 2005028425. New York : HarperCollins, 2006.

HBB, 0060080728, list price: \$15.99.

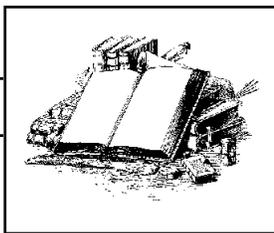
Fic. World War, 1939-1945--United States--Fiction; Cousins--Fiction; Family life--Fiction; Islands--Fiction. 163 p. ; 22 cm.

MS. Rating : 4.

In this World War II period fiction novel, fourteen-year-old Belle spends the summer on a Lake Huron island with her siblings, grandparents, and her cousin Carrie whom she meets for the first time. Sophisticated cousin Carrie leaves behind a life in France and a father in war-torn England. Belle becomes jealous of Carrie, who wears heels, nail polish, and curls, and resents the attention Carrie receives from others. Carrie develops an attitude towards the family and refrains from their group activities. When family tragedy hits, the girls grow closer together, and Belle learns to appreciate their differences.

In *Summer of the War*, chapters end in unresolved situations so that the reader is compelled to read further and further. Gloria Whelan's characters are developed so that each one is known for their uniqueness as well as their place in the family group. A sense of the time period is expressed by Carrie's page boy hairstyle, other fashions, and Carrie's correspondence with her father in Europe. French phrases and their translations are scattered throughout dialogue, demonstrating the difference between the life that is familiar to Carrie and that which is familiar to Belle and the rest of the family (although Belle understands the French.) The grandfather says grace over meals and some references are made to Belle's belief in God. The story is written in a style that gives the reader insight into Belle's emotions as they bobble up and down and comes to an uplifting conclusion.

Susan Joy Clark



The Facts on File dictionary of computer science / edited by John Daintith, Edmund Wright. Rev. ed. LCCN 2006042004. New York : Facts On File, 2006.

HBB, 0816059993, list price: \$49.50.

4.03. Computer science--Dictionaries. x, 273 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.

The Facts on File dictionary of weather and climate / edited by Jacqueline Smith. Rev. ed. LCCN 2006042865. New York : Facts On File, 2006.

HBB, 081606296X, list price: \$49.50.

551.5. Meteorology--Dictionaries. x, 262 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.

The Facts on File dictionary of earth science / edited by Jacqueline Smith. Rev. ed. LCCN 2006042340. New York : Facts On File, 2006.

HBB, 0816060002, list price: \$55.00.

550.3. Earth sciences--Dictionaries. x, 388 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.

HS (MS). Rating : 5.

All three of these dictionaries by Facts on File are chock full of useful terms that any student of these subjects would be glad to have handy. The terminology is up to date, and in the case of the computer science book, this is a feat in itself! They are all organized alphabetically, followed by useful appendices including websites. Each has a pronunciation guide and a brief bibliography.

We gave these books to experts in each field for a "real world" view. None of the experts were able to come up with terms not adequately covered by these dictionaries. Each expert asked if they could have the book when the reviewer was finished with it, as it would be a valuable resource for them. For the casual student these might be a bit daunting. For the occasional young reader who just can't get enough of a

subject, or for a student needing specific definitions, these books are an excellent investment. If cost is an issue, the computer science book will lose its currency most rapidly.

Kelley Westenhoff

What's the deal with Wicca? : a deeper look into the dark side of today's witchcraft / Steve Russo. L C C N 2 0 0 5 0 1 8 4 4 4 . Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2005.

PAP, 0764201360, list price: \$11.99.

261.2/994. Teenagers--Religious life; Apologetics; Witchcraft; Occultism--Religious aspects--Christianity. 191 p. ; 22 cm.

HS. Rating : 4.

Steve Russo writes directly to teens. He gives the history of Wicca, many modern examples of kids involved in it and compares it to Christianity. He particularly compares what teens are looking for today, i.e. acceptance, love, freedom and lets readers see what Wicca actually offers and what Christ offers. Russo's book is filled with Scripture, many lists, and practical tips, and ends with discussion questions, a glossary of Wiccan terms, and Wiccan holidays and symbols.

It could be thought that giving teens such an abundance of information about a religion that we want them to avoid is dangerous and might actually draw them to Wiccan practices. But Steve Russo is a pro at communicating to teens on difficult subjects, speaking to thousands of young people and their families each week through his "Real Answers with Steve Russo" radio spots, and he leaves no question in the readers' minds as to true religion and lays bare the deception in Wicca and Witchcraft. The only criticism to the book is a semantic one as some segues in the early chapters from Wicca to Christianity are rather abrupt and leave the reader surprised at where

they have arrived so unexpectedly. That comment aside, *What's the Deal with Wicca?* will give its audience, as promised in the subtitle, a deeper look into the dark side of today's witchcraft, but at the same time give the hope that Christ extends.

Ceil Carey

The girl in the mirror : reflections for teens / Michell Grover. LCCN 2006296782. Greenville, S.C. : JourneyForth, 2006.

PAP, 1591665078, list price: \$7.49.

268/.433. Bible. O.T. Proverbs--Study and teaching; Teenage girls--Religious life. xi, 73 p. ; 22 cm.

HS (MS). Rating : 5.

The Girl in the Mirror is a devotional book for teen girls. Author Michelle Grover is not far off from the teen years herself and her ability to relate to this age group is evident in the text. Combining a beauty pageant theme with the two types of women represented in the book of Proverbs, Grover guides girls as they look at seven aspects of the beauty contestant's life: her relationship with God, her speech, her outward appearance, her personal discipline, her public life, her private life, and her reputation and final end. These seven aspects are divided into twelve lessons. Written in workbook form, the book has uses for individual study or group Bible study. The book closes with study helps and assurance of salvation.

Jane Mouttet

The roots of terrorism / Assaf Moghadam. (The roots of terrorism.) LCCN 2005021625. Philadelphia : Chelsea House, 2006.

HBB, 0791083071, list price: \$35.00.

303.6/25. Terrorism. viii, 144 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 25 cm.

What is terrorism? / Leonard Weinberg and William Eubank. (The roots of terrorism.) LCCN 2005027569. Philadelphia : Chelsea House, 2005.

HBB, 0791083055, list price: \$35.00.

303.6/25. Terrorism--History. viii, 104 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 25 cm.

Who are the terrorists? / Dipak K. Gupta. (The roots of terrorism.) LCCN 2005021627. Philadelphia : Chelsea House, 2006.

HBB, 0791083063, list price: \$35.00.

303.6/25. Terrorism--Prevention; Terrorists--Psychology; Terrorism. viii, 116 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 25 cm.

Middle Eastern terrorism / Arie Perliger. (The roots of terrorism.) LCCN 2006006019. Philadelphia : Chelsea House, 2006.

HBB, 0791083098, list price: \$35.00.

303.6/250956. Terrorism--Middle East. viii, 111 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 25 cm.

Domestic terrorism / Jack Levin. (The roots of terrorism.) LCCN 2006006020. Philadelphia : Chelsea House, 2006.

HBB, 0791086836, list price: \$35.00.

303.6/250973. Terrorism--United States. viii, 93 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 25 cm.

Will terrorism end? / Jeffrey Ian Ross. (The roots of terrorism.) LCCN 2006006021. Philadelphia : Chelsea House, 2006.

HBB, 0791083101, list price: \$35.00.

303.6/250973. Terrorism. viii, 112 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 25 cm.

HS (MS). Rating : 5.

The six volume *The Roots of Terrorism* set will enable students to understand terrorism and how it has evolved geographically, historically, and ideologically. The careful discussion throughout the series offers students the

opportunity to place world events in context. It offers a realistic picture of what terrorism is all about; addressing what constitutes realistic concerns about the danger of terrorism versus irrational fear. It takes the quality found in *Rethinking the Roots of Terrorism* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2006) and *Root Causes of Terrorism* (Routledge, 2005) and makes it lucid for a younger audience.

What is Terrorism? defines terrorism, its immediate aims, and long-term objectives. *Who are the Terrorists?* and *The Roots of Terrorism* approach the problem in two different ways. The first provides profiles of individual terrorists and terrorist groups, in addition to exploring the issues that inspire terrorists. The second title is more concerned with what causes people to join terrorist groups and what are the grievances that give rise to terrorist campaigns.

Domestic Terrorism brings the subject close to home by describing domestic terrorist activity in the United States over the last 50 years. *Middle East Terrorism* offers an amount of terrorist activity in the region of the world with which such violence is most closely identified.

Will Terrorism End? calls attention to various ways in which terrorist episodes have ended in the past. What groups have disbanded and which still exist? Finally, what the future holds.

Full-color photographs and illustrations, with sidebars and an index make comfortable reading, with a lot of resource material in one book. All public libraries can add these for their insightful and authoritative coverage of a complex subject. Schools where current events and world developments are covered would offer an enlightening opportunity with this set in the library/media center.

Manners matter for students / Fred Hartley, Andrea Hartley Smith. Uhrichsville, Ohio : Barbour Publishing, 2006.

PAP, 1597893064, list price: \$9.99.

395/.122. Etiquette; Etiquette for children and teenagers. 251 p. : ill. ; 21 cm.

HS (MS). Rating : 3.

Do manners apply to a generation that has grown to value individuality? That's just one of the questions asked and answered in *Manners Matter for Students*. The answer, of course, is yes, as authors Fred Hartley and Andrea Hartley Smith tackle such topics as how to hold meaningful conversations, how to introduce (and be introduced to) others, what constitutes good telephone and email manners, how to behave when dining at someone's house or at restaurants (fast food and fancy), and how to act in school, at church, and at work.

The book is written in a spare, chatty tone that addresses the reader directly, enthusiastically making good manners seem simple and desirable to attain. The text is frequently broken down into bulleted or numbered points; these points are usually further explained as to why the behaviors described are important and how to achieve them. Main points are summed up at chapter's end. Bible verses are sprinkled throughout the text, usually to emphasize a point (that bragging, for instance, is a "noisy gong," or that good manners are a form of loving others akin to the Golden Rule).

Some suggested behaviors might seem too corny for today's teens (for instance, opening a discussion at home with "Did anyone meet a new person today?"), some might make teens fear they'd appear toadying (flattering by engaging teachers in meaningful conversation

whenever there's an opportunity), and some might make teens fear they'll look weird (calling all adults "sir" or "ma'am"). However, *Manners Matter* will be a great help for teens wanting to know how to act in social situations. Almost any situation the reader might encounter is thoroughly covered, and the suggestions given are, for the most part, logical and easy to put into practice. (The book should be helpful for adults, too).

Rosemarie DiCristo

The Facts on File dictionary of clichés / Christine Ammer. 2nd ed. LCCN 2005037999. New York : Facts On File, 2006.

HBB, 081606279X, list price: \$50.00.

423/.1. English language--Usage--Dictionaries; Cliches--Dictionaries. x, 534 p. ; 24 cm.

HS (MS). Rating : 5.

Fully indexed and cross-referenced, *The Facts on File Dictionary of Clichés* explains the meanings and origins of 4,000 clichés and common expressions. Updated by deleting some clichés that are obsolete and expanded with close to 500 new clichés, this resource clarifies the meanings of clichés and, importantly to students and writers, illustrates their use.

Ammer brings unique skill and expertise to this edition for she has concentrated on language for the past 15 years including *The American Heritage Dictionary of Idioms* (Houghton Mifflin, 2003) and a column on terms from the military for *Military History Quarterly*.

The A to Z format for entries and the easy language makes this digestible for students in grades nine to twelve, and an invaluable tool for writers and general readers. Homeschoolers and writers are sure to find useful lessons. Its comprehensive approach allows this to be an investment that small libraries

can make with confidence. Those with the *Dictionary of Cliché* (Wordsworth Editions, 1998) or *The Penguin Dictionary of Clichés* (Penguin Reference) will find many more clichés included and more detail regarding the origin and meanings of clichés in this Facts On File publication.

Dr. Leroy Hommerding

The Facts on File physics handbook / the Diagram Group. Rev. ed. LCCN 2004059265. New York : Facts On File, 2006.

HBB, 0816058806, list price: \$35.00.

530. Physics--Handbooks, manuals, etc. 272 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.

The Facts on File chemistry handbook / the Diagram Group. Rev. ed. LCCN 2005055496. New York : Facts On File, 2006.

HBB, 0816058784, list price: \$35.00.

540. Chemistry--Handbooks, manuals, etc. 272 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.

The Facts on File earth science handbook / the Diagram Group. Rev. ed. LCCN 2005044692. New York : Facts On File, 2006.

HBB, 0816058792, list price: \$35.00.

550. Earth sciences--Handbooks, manuals, etc. 272 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.

The Facts on File biology handbook / the Diagram Group. Rev. ed. LCCN 2004059270. New York : Facts On File, 2006.

HBB, 0816058776, list price: \$35.00.

570. Biology--Handbooks, manuals, etc. 272 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.

HS (MS). Rating : 5.

Intended to offer students a full view of a branch of science, this toolbox of science handbooks can be a single source reference for some, and a helpful way of organizing for others. First published six years ago, each handbook expands on information in the previous edition.

Four new sections are included (a) an A to Z of key advances in the field, (b) a list of prize winners in the discipline, (c) important associations, and (d) key web sites. The biography and chronology sections have been updated.

Between 1,300 and 1,700 entries are provided, biographies of 250 to 400 people, and between 125 and 150 important advances are included, updated to 2005. The tables, charts, and diagrams present a lot of information concisely, and illustrated in such a manner to enable students to grasp the concepts. The concise and inviting explanation makes this a veritable treasure of amassed diagrams and relationships that high school students can understand, and which opens the concepts for younger students to grasp.

All public libraries can add this set for its insightful and authoritative coverage of a complex subject. Schools libraries should consider this a must purchase for its comprehensive and easily explained concepts.

Dr. Leroy Hommerding

Physics : an illustrated guide to science / the Diagram Group. (Science visual resources.) New York : Facts On File, 2006.

HBB, 081606167X, list price: \$49.50.

530. Physics. 208 p. : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Chemistry : an illustrated guide to science / the Diagram Group. (Science visual resources.) LCCN 2005058265. New York : Facts On File, 2006.

HBB, 0816061637, list price: \$49.50.

540. Chemistry. 208 p. : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Marine science : an illustrated guide to science / the Diagram Group. (Science visual resources.) LCCN 2005051136. New York : Facts On File, 2006.

HBB, 0816061661, list price: \$49.50.

551.46. Marine sciences. 208 p. : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Weather and climate : an illustrated guide to science / the Diagram Group. (Science visual resources.) New York : Facts On File, 2006.

HBB, 0816061696, list price: \$49.50.

551.6. Climatology; Weather. 208 p. : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Biology : an illustrated guide to science / the Diagram Group. (Science visual resources.) LCCN 2005051632. New York : Facts On File, 2006.

HBB, 0816061629, list price: \$49.50.

570. Biology. 208 p. : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Environment : an illustrated guide to science / the Diagram Group. (Science visual resources.) New York : Facts On File, 2006.

HBB, 0816061653, list price: \$49.50.

628. Environmental science. 208 p. : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

HS (MS). Rating : 4.

Containing more than 1,000 full-color illustrations, charts, graphs, and maps essential to the study of this branch of science, these volumes offer a visual journey for the student. Clear organization, a comprehensive glossary, parallel text providing key definitions, and step-by-step explanations, and an index provide a foundation of scientific understanding.

The attractive layout and color coding will help students to linger in the material, and will draw in some who are not particularly interested at first glance. The comprehensive, accessible, and up-to-date discussions, including the trend toward using web resources, will be not only an enjoyable read but prompt students to see important relationships that make the science applicable and

worthwhile.

All public libraries can add for its broad accessibility to a wide range of students, and as a set which homeschooling families will find of ready assistance. Schools libraries should consider this a must purchase for its comprehensive and easily explained visual guide.

Dr. Leroy Hommerding

Invisible allies : microbes that shape our lives / Jeanette Farrell. LCCN 2004053750. New York : Farrar Straus Giroux, 2005.

HBB, 0374336083, list price: \$17.00.

579. Microorganisms; Microbiology. 165 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.

MS. Rating : 5.

In this award-winning companion to *Invisible Enemies : Stories of Infectious Disease* (Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 2005), Janette Farrell examines the millions of naturally occurring, beneficial bacteria and yeasts which create and preserve our food, aid digestion, and clean our world. While not intentional, *Invisible Allies* provides concrete, scientific evidence in the microscopic world that God has truly provided all we need.

Beginning with anecdotes about the prevalence and significance of microbes in our everyday world, the introduction delves into fascinating early studies by Antony Von Leeuwenhoek. Written in clear, conversational chapters, the book continues discussing the role of microbes in a simple lunch of a cheese sandwich and chocolate bar. Subsequent chapters intertwine historical details and scientific explanations of how people have harnessed these infinitesimal creatures to make delicious food. Black and white photographs and historical documents and sketches punctuate the text. Likewise, intermittent insets provide the reader with remarkable historical vignettes, simple recipes, and

interesting facts. Finally, the book clearly explains the important role of microbes in decomposition and waste management.

Concluding with a complete glossary, notes and bibliography, illustration credits and index, the book is most certainly very well documented. At the very end the author does presume evolution and a billion-year old earth as fact. However, readers who understand that these ideas are theories, can find many facts within the text to prove that God is at work in all levels of our lives down to the tiny beings we cannot even see. Overall, it is an excellent source for young people on the intriguing world of microbiology.

Kristine Wildner

Plant ecology / J. Phil Gibson and Terri R. Givson. (The green world.) LCCN 2005019381. Philadelphia : Chelsea House, 2006.

HBB, 079108566X, list price: \$37.50.

581.7. Plant ecology. viii, 189 p. : col. ill. ; 24 cm.

MS (HS). Rating : 4.

The Green World Series of seven volumes describes what plants are, what plants do, and where plants fit into the overall scheme of things. *Plant Ecology* explores ecological roles and dynamics of plants in their environment, exploring concepts from individual plant interactions to entire ecosystems. *Photosynthesis and Respiration* explores the flow of energy through plants, and shows how plants convert that energy to the food that sustains all of humanity.

Color photographs and illustrations, sidebars, and a layout pleasing to the eye, make reading easy with illustrative steps to guide both the slow and fast reader. One appealing feature of both titles is that they focus on the

relationships between plants and humans, as opposed to a strict focus on plant anatomy and physiology. Those familiar with *The Ecology of Plants* (Sinauer, 2006) will find a similar approach here but accessible for a younger audience.

Public libraries having a heavy influx of students seeking plant biology can add with confidence. School libraries supporting science curriculum standards will be offering titles students will likely use.

Dr. Leroy Hommerding

The Facts on File guide to style / Martin H. Manser ; associate editor, Stephen Curtis. LCCN 2005023169. New York : Facts On File, 2006.

HBB, 081606041X, list price: \$45.00.

808/.042. Report writing--Handbooks, manuals, etc.; English language--Style--Handbooks, manuals, etc. xii, 317 p. ; 24 cm.

HS (MS). Rating : 5.

School papers, e-mails, business reports, and ordinary communication require an effective and appropriate style. This guide, intended for those who wish to improve their writing skills, explains the fundamentals, e.g. choosing words, expressing tone through words, and offers techniques one can use when writing various types of documents.

An index offers a wealth of ideas all the way from using italics for emphasis and in quotations, to organizing and combining ideas in sentences.

Recommended for all public libraries, as well as school libraries where the curriculum expects clarity and precision in writing. Homeschooling parents will find many informative sections in this guide. Those libraries with the *New York Public Library Writer's Guide to Style and Usage* or *The ACS Style Guide* will find this tool more comprehensive

and easily usable by both teens and adults.

Dr. Leroy Hommerding

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The Oxford book of American poetry / chosen and edited by David Lehman ; associate editor, John Brehm. LCCN 2005036590. New York : Oxford University Press, 2006.

HBB, 019516251X, list price: \$35.00.

811.008. Poetry; American poetry. Ivii, 1132 p. ; 24 cm.

HS (Adult). Rating : *5.

An anthology of this ponderous focus is, as Mike Lehman, the editor, puts it (from admittedly borrowed words) “ a bridge connecting us to the past.” While poetry may be as old as civilization, having found itself deeply rooted in David’s praises of God in the Psalms, American poetry is relatively new, and yet its richness and diversity abounds. *The Oxford Book of American Poetry* is an update of the 1976 acclaimed edition. There are over 200 poems of multiplicity to ponder, appreciate, and savor. Lehman acknowledges that as time passes the relevancy and appreciation of poets changes, and the chosen poems selected reflect this. Poetry is subjective, and being so, the editor has selected what he considers to be representative of American poetry. Some people may wonder at the inclusion of so many works of expected poets, such as Emerson, Poe, Whitman, Dickinson, Frost, and relatively few of others like Lowell, Sandburg, Nash, and Warren. This is the difficulty of being an anthology editor—to select what is felt to be the most representative. The anthology is not the absolute last word, and should serve as a springboard into searching out further works or works not included. For instance, where is Gary

Soto and “Oranges” or even Nikki Grimes and Nikki Giovanni?

The Oxford Book of American Poetry is an anthology and a tribute to American poets, and it is a bargain at its listed price. The poets are listed chronologically beginning with the 1700’s moving to the present. Each poet is introduced with a biographical sketch and the index is arranged to include poet name, titles, and first lines. A resource for use in the classroom, or for aficionados, this anthology is not to be missed.

Pam Webb

Herman Melville / edited and with an introduction by Harold Bloom. (Bloom’s biocritiques.) LCCN 2005014807. Philadelphia : Chelsea House, 2005.

HBB, 0791085732, list price: \$35.00.

813/.3. Melville, Herman, 1819-1891--Criticism and interpretation. xiii, 165 p. ; 24 cm.

James Baldwin / edited and with an introduction by Harold Bloom. (Bloom’s biocritiques.) LCCN 2005011380. Philadelphia : Chelsea House, 2005.

HBB, 0791085759, list price: \$35.00.

813/.5409. Baldwin, James, 1924--Criticism and interpretation. xiii, 158 p. ; 24 cm.

William Blake / edited and with an introduction by Harold Bloom. (Bloom’s biocritiques.) LCCN 2005008872. Philadelphia : Chelsea House, 2005.

HBB, 0791085716, list price: \$35.00.

821/.7. Blake, William, 1757-1827--Criticism and interpretation; Poets, English--18th century--Biography; Poets, English--19th century--Biography; Artists--Great Britain--Biography. xiii, 184 p. ; 24 cm.

Gabriel Garcia Marquez / edited and with an introduction by Harold Bloom. (Bloom’s biocritiques.) LCCN 2005008632.

Philadelphia : Chelsea House, 2005.

HBB, 079108115X, list price: \$35.00.
863./64. Garcia Marquez, Gabriel, 1928- --
Criticism and interpretation. xiii, 129 p. ; 24
cm.
HS (Adult). Rating : 4.

The BioCritiques series not only bears the name of renowned professor/author Harold Bloom, but lives up to his reputation for enlightening and instructive literary analysis. Bloom edits and supplies the introduction for the titles (there are over forty) in this series, each of which serves as a guidebook to the life of a prominent literary figure. Each volume provides unique insight, combining biographical content and methodical examination of the writer's body of work.

The biographical sketches included are thorough and at times revelatory, and while portions of the critical study might prove difficult for all but the most scholarly of readers, important concepts can be gleaned by all. Understanding the wealth and diversity of the information provided is aided by the inclusion of several key elements: a chronology of the writer's life, a complete bibliography of their works, a catalog of critical works about the writer, and an index of themes and ideas. The density found in various sections makes the series ideal for adults or older students, but advanced younger students should find the content helpful when attempting to comprehend the inspiration and motives of the authors they are studying. Parents of students should note the material is honest, though not graphic, about aspects of the figures' lives and some details could be deemed objectionable.

Extensive in scope and nuanced in detail, Bloom and his fellow contributors suitably do justice to the historical importance of the writers they cover.

Lovers of literature should find these works ripe with information necessary to gain a revealing glimpse into the lifeblood of authors they have long admired.

Aarik Danielsen

North Africa and the Middle East / Jeffrey A. Gritzner, Charles F. Gritzner. (Modern world cultures.) LCCN 2006011649. Philadelphia : Chelsea House, 2006.

HBB, 0791081451, list price: \$30.00.
915.6. Africa, North; Middle East. vii, 120 p. :
ill. (some col.) ; 25 cm.
MS (HS). Rating : 4.

Focusing on the geography of North Africa and the Middle East, students can find information about the economic, social, and political influences that affect this region. The closing chapter, offering an outline of factors or conditions appearing to hold the greatest significance in determining the region's future, is of particular insight. A two page 'history at a glance' will enable some to see the wider picture.

While color photographs and illustrations are present at periodic intervals throughout the text, pages of continuous text will discourage some students in their concentration as the language varies in grasp of vocabulary. Still the comprehensive approach utilized in the discussion can encourage public libraries to add this economically priced volume. School libraries can gain a single title without investing in a series or encyclopedia.

Dr. Leroy Hommerding

North Africa / edited by Peter Mitchell. (Peoples and cultures of Africa.) New York : Facts On File, 2006.

HBB, 0816062617, list price: \$39.00.
961. Africa, North; Ethnology--Africa. 112 p. :
col. ill. ; 29 cm.

West Africa / edited by Peter Mitchell. (Peoples and cultures of Africa.) New York : Facts On File, 2006.

HBB, 0816062625, list price: \$39.00.
966. Africa, West; Ethnology--Africa. 112 p. :
col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Southern Africa / edited by Peter Mitchell. (Peoples and cultures of Africa.) New York : Facts On File, 2006.

HBB, 081606265X, list price: \$39.00.
968. Africa, Southern; Ethnology--Africa. 112
p. : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

East Africa / edited by Peter Mitchell. (Peoples and cultures of Africa.) New York : Facts On File, 2006.

HBB, 0816062633, list price: \$39.00.
967.6. Africa, East; Ethnology--Africa. 112 p. :
col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Central Africa / edited by Peter Mitchell. (Peoples and cultures of Africa.) New York : Facts On File, 2006.

HBB, 0816062641, list price: \$39.00.
967. Africa, Central; Ethnology--Africa. 112
p. : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

Nations and personalities / edited by Peter Mitchell. (Peoples and cultures of Africa.) New York : Facts On File, 2006.

HBB, 0816062668, list price: \$39.00.
960. Ethnology--Africa; Africa. 112 p. : col.
ill. ; 29 cm.
HS (MS). Rating : 5.

This new Peoples & Cultures of Africa series offers students an updated, comprehensive review of the continent of Africa. Five of the six volumes cover large geographical regions, North Africa, West Africa, Southern Africa, East Africa, and Central Africa. Each volume offers articles covering the

political situation today, physical geography, biomes, cultures and an historical timeline. Topics cover specific ethnic groups, performing arts and literature, religion, social and cultural notes of interest.

Of particular interest to youth will be the more than 100 photographs and full-color illustrations in each of the five volumes. The articles follow an A to Z arrangement with four color panels, e.g. blue to highlight performing arts & literature. Within each volume a glossary of key terms, lists of related reference books and web sites is included.

Sidebars in each volume articulate the making of history/music/art, proverbs/sayings, quotes, and glimpses into the lives of the peoples that make the books something more than a research source.

The sixth volume is divided into political and physical Africa with profiles of every nation of Africa, major international bodies operating in each region, and finally the biographies of 300 people from throughout Africa.

The series deserves highest recommendation for making the intricate and complex history of Africa understandable to a young audience. Its achievement rests not so much in its incisive analysis or original insights, but in the unadulterated readability of the volumes.

Recommended for all school libraries where Africa is seriously studied in the curriculum. All public libraries will find a useful resource here as it speaks to youth grades six to twelve, and yet is of interest to general interest adults. Public libraries carrying *Africa: A Biography of the Continent* (Vintage, 1999) will find the same quality here, only accessible also to a younger audience.

Dr. Leroy Hommerding

Encyclopedia of Native American tribes / Carl Waldman. 3rd ed., rev. ed. LCCN 2006012529. New York : Facts On File, 2006.

HBB, 0816062730, list price: \$75.00.

970.004/97003. Indians of North America--Encyclopedias. xxiv, 360 p. : col. ill. ; 29 cm.

HS (Adult). Rating : 5.

Encyclopedia of Native American Indians is an overview of more than 200 North American Indian cultures, tribes, and language families. Part of the Facts On File Library of American History series, it is organized alphabetically by tribe from Abenaki to Zuni. The book summarizes the historical record of Native "Lifeways"—including legends, rituals, religion, arts, language, family, transportation, and homes, with some contemporary tribal information. Traditional lifestyle and custom entries vary in length from a few paragraphs to several pages.

In the revision of this 1996 text, Waldman traces many facets that have been used to explain who the North American Indians were as they survived the encroaching whites. The simple but colorful drawings are mostly of artifacts, implements of work, ceremonial items, modes of travel, costumes, and structures, and serve to illustrate descriptions in the text. Wars, migrations, revolts, economic systems, and geography all are subjects that form the sociological frame of reference for these tribes as their territories shift borders. Lists of tribes, culture areas, glossary, selected bibliography, and index included. Highly recommended for school and public libraries.

To a limited extent, the geography and environment hosting these people granted them the flexibility to maintain dynamic societies, even in precarious conditions.

Rebecca Cress-Ingebo

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Bushnell's submarine : the best kept secret of the American Revolution / Arthur S. Lefkowitz. LCCN 2005042645. New York : Scholastic Nonfiction, 2006.

HBB, 0439743524, list price: \$16.99.

973.3/5. Submarine warfare--United States--History--18th century; Submarines (Ships)--United States--History--18th century; United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783--Naval operations. 136 p. : ill., maps ; 20 cm.

MS (HS). Rating : *5.

It is September 6, 1776. British warships crowd New York harbor, and a large British army is encamped around the city's perimeter. They are there to overtake and occupy one of the most militarily critical cities of the Revolutionary War. If they can defeat the Continental (American) army that is defending New York, they will have gained a foothold from which to crush the upstart Colonists. Among the forest of masts in the harbor are some of the most sophisticated war machines in the British armada. Their sole opponent, unbeknownst to them, is the first submarine ever used in combat: the *Turtle*.

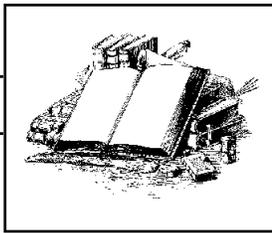
Bushnell's Submarine follows David Bushnell, one of the most ingenious inventors to ever tread American soil, on his arduous adventure to that fateful day when the best hope of the American Revolution lay in an odd looking vessel not much bigger, or graceful, than a rain barrel.

Lefkowitz's historical account of David Bushnell's obsession with using his inventive prowess to fight the British reads like a fictional page-turner. As events unfold, from Bushnell's graduation at Yale to his historic attack on the *HMS Eagle*, the author offers sidebars that include original documentation on Bushnell's research, scientific diagrams of submarine

development, maps, and other illustrations that bring the book and its historical characters to life.

The reader will finish the book with a sense that they were there when “The Best Kept Secret of the American Revolution” broke naval tradition, spawned the modern submarine, and altered naval warfare forever.

William Patrick Davis



Adelaide Piper / Beth Webb Hart.
LCCN 2006011841. Nashville :
WestBow, 2006.

PAP, 159554027X, list price: \$13.99.

Fic. Campus violence--Fiction; Authors--Fiction; Women college students--Fiction; Southern States--Fiction. 325 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (HS). Rating : 5.

Having grown up in the ugly, Alabama mill city of Williamstown, all Adelaide Piper wants is to escape this backwards place with its perpetual stink and poverty, oddly juxtaposed against the dying vestiges of fine Southern high society. A poet, Adelaide is determined, outspoken, yet sensitive, and a deep thinker. Landing a scholarship to Nathaniel Buxton University in Virginia offers her a mode of escape to the "outside" world. Being date-raped her freshman year radically changes her life, however, and as Adelaide struggles with the fear that has a strangle-hold on her heart, she is inexorably drawn to the peace and new life that surrendering to Christ offers.

Written in first person, *Adelaide Piper*, by Beth Hart draws the reader in immediately with refreshing honesty and insightfulness, punctuated by Adelaide's poetry throughout. Hart deals frankly, yet appropriately with a number of issues surrounding college life, including the struggle to "fit in," rape, abortion, STD's, drugs, alcohol, fraternity hazing, and eating disorders, to name a few. Readers will likely recognize themselves in at least one of the characters Hart describes, and will be encouraged by Hart's message that though life is difficult it can be made less overwhelming with the presence of Christ, who can forgive the worst of sins, no matter how long the list of crimes is.

Hart's characters are realistically portrayed, including a couple of incidences using strong slang. Adelaide

wrestles with her faith for much of the novel, presenting all the typical excuses and questions of a non-believer before experiencing an almost reluctant, non-sensationalized conversion. For this reason, Hart's book would likely have strong reader appeal even for non-believers. For the first year, Adelaide steadily seeks to develop her relationship with the Lord; however, a few years after her conversion she is reminded that she has inadvertently gotten off track doing "good deeds," distracting her from a true relationship with Christ. Refreshingly, the novel does not end with every problem neatly solved and tied up in a perfect little package.

Sherri Beeler

The angel : a novel / by James H. Pence.
LCCN 2006003464.
Grand Rapids : Kregel, 2006.

PAP, 0825434726, list price: \$13.99.

Fic. Serial murderers--Texas--Dallas--Fiction; Euthanasia--Fiction; Women physicians--Fiction; Dallas (Tex.)--Fiction; Mystery fiction. 333 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (HS). Rating : 5.

When patients begin dying mysteriously, Dr. Lori Westlake recruits the help of a terminally ill retired police officer, Charles Hamisch, to investigate. Before they can discover who is responsible for the killings, a secret pro-euthanasia group asks Dr. Westlake to join them. But somewhere within the group is the serial killer, who calls himself the Angel of Mercy. *The Angel* delivers suspense and a thoughtful look into terminal disease and euthanasia.

The Angel is, above all, suspense-filled. Multiple unexpected plot twists keep the reader guessing until the very end. The characters are real and human, struggling with their personal troubles and doubts. Vivid action and description anchors the reader into the

book, with only an occasional stiff line of dialogue. The author deals unflinchingly, sensitively, and thoughtfully with a difficult, modern-day issue. The character Charles Hamisch suffers from Lou Gehrig's disease. His battle with the disease is emotional (and sometimes emotionally painful to read) and it offers a more personal insight into the issue of euthanasia. Although characters' opinions of euthanasia waver through the book, ultimately *The Angel* presents life as a precious, if sometimes difficult, gift.

Kathryn Stillman

Blinded / Travis Thrasher.
LCCN 2006014340. Chicago :
Moody Publishers, 2006.

PAP, 080248672X, 9780802486721, list price: \$12.99.

Fic. Temptation--Fiction; Husbands--Fiction; Manhattan (New York, N.Y.)--Fiction; Christian fiction. 240 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

Travis Thrasher takes us where many Christian authors dare not tread: deep inside the struggles and temptations of men in our culture. Michael Grey has an extra night in New York City before he flies home the next day. After a business deal gone wrong, he decides to have a drink to try and take his mind off his problems. He is then approached by a beautiful blonde named Jasmine, who leaves her number and invites Michael to call her later. Suddenly Michael finds himself face to face with the strong temptation to spend time with this sensuous woman, despite the fact that he is married and has two children at home. What's the harm? Who will really know if he enjoys a drink or two with this gorgeous woman? One bad decision leads to a terrifying, unforgettable evening that will either ruin Michael or provide him with a much-needed

spiritual wake-up call.

Travis Thrasher effectively portrays what it's like for men to struggle in our sexually charged culture. He doesn't just dwell on the problem, but he points us toward the solution that is found in a deep faith in God. Michael Grey is an intriguing character study waiting to happen, and it is frightening to witness Michael's progression as he quickly stumbles headfirst into temptation. This novel is real and powerful, and Thrasher's use of the second person narrative drops us right into the middle of Michael's struggle. *Blinded* is a challenging, eye-opening read that is both entertaining and enlightening. This is a must-read for Christian men and women.

Jake Chism

Brigid of Ireland / Cindy Thomson. Oxford, Eng. : Monarch Books, 2006.

PAP, 082546112X, 9780825461125, list price: \$13.99.

Fic. Brigid, of Ireland, Saint, ca. 453-ca. 524--Fiction; Ireland--Religion--Fiction. 320 p. ; 20 cm.

Adult (HS). Rating : 3.

Brigid of Ireland, a historical novel by Cindy Thomson, tells the story of the famous Irish saint, covering all the major events in her life, from her childhood as a slave to her early young adulthood and her success at helping Christianity spread throughout Ireland.

The book is well written, with a lovely lyrical tone and voice reminiscent of a fairy tale or children's novel. The characters are well developed, especially Brigid, who manages to be spunky and sweet at the same time. Suspense comes through Brigid's continual conflicts with an evil druid, Ardan, who hopes to gain the power of Brigid's God—or if not, use Brigid's death to stop the spread of that God's influence.

The Christian focus is strong; Bible verses open most chapters, and Brigid's main mission is to convert the pagan population of Ireland. Brigid herself performs many miracles, including healing sores, coaxing milk and eggs from cows and chickens, and taming wolves. She even has the ability to call down curses on people.

The slow, leisurely pace makes *Brigid of Ireland* a pleasant read. The amount of research into the real Brigid's life makes it a painless way to learn Irish history. The characters are memorable and the story compelling. While the book may be a bit lengthy for teens, it is suitable for them as well as for its intended adult audience.

Rosemarie DiCristo

The Englisher / Beverly Lewis. (Annie's people ; 2.) LCCN 2006003140. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2006.

PAP, 0764201069, list price: \$13.99.

Fic. Amish--Fiction; Women artists--Fiction; Children of clergy--Fiction. 344 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (HS). Rating : 4.

The Englisher by Beverly Lewis is the second novel in the series, *Annie's People*, which revolves around an Amish girl named Annie Zook. In Book 1, *The Preacher's Daughter* (Bethany House, 2005), Annie promised her father that she would give up painting, the great passion of her life, for six months. *The Englisher* is the story of those six months. While she struggles to redirect her creative energies into ways acceptable to the Amish church, Annie finds herself falling into another temptation—namely, a handsome outsider, an Englisher as the Amish call them.

Ms. Lewis' characters are endearing and instantly become old friends. This is a comfortable read and informative in the

ways of the Amish. It is particularly helpful in distinguishing between the Amish and the Mennonites.

This title doesn't really stand alone, its plot being tightly linked to unresolved issues in the first book. It leaves the reader hanging, suggesting another book to come.

Heather MacInnis

The fragrance of roses / Nikki Arana. (Regalo grande ; 3.) LCCN 2006006876. Grand Rapids : Fleming H. Revell, 2006.

PAP, 080073050X, list price: \$12.99.

Fic. Mothers and sons--Fiction; Critically ill children--Fiction; Cancer in children--Fiction; Mexicans--Fiction; California--Fiction. 327 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult. Rating : 3.

The Fragrance of Roses is the third book in the Regalo Grande series. Angelica's son, Manuel, struggles with leukemia, having a serious setback after a remission. Angelica and her husband, Antonio, learn that Manuel needs a blood marrow transplant and the chances of finding a matching donor are slim. Still the couple puts their trust in God and hopes for a miracle. In desperation, Manuel leaves California and goes back to his hometown in Mexico, searching for a donor among his family. His search unites him with a nephew he met only once, the son of an estranged sister.

The story juggles points of view between several important characters which not only promotes understanding of several characters but also helps to build suspense as the scene and perspective switches. The writing shows a familiarity and understanding of Mexican culture and California ranch life. Enough descriptive detail is given to envision the environment. The medical predicament seems believable, and the reader can easily sympathize with Manuel's parents and Cirroco,

Antonio's Mexican nephew. The spiritual themes are strong such as trust in God and the power of prayer. One scene shows a group that perceives the Holy Spirit as a breeze and a voice singing over them.

Susan Joy Clark

Freefall / Kristen Heitzmann.
LCCN 2006019505.
Minneapolis : Bethany House,
2006.

PAP, 0764228293, 9780764228292, list price:
\$13.99.

Fic. Amnesiacs--Fiction; Kauai (Hawaii)--
Fiction; Romantic suspense fiction; Christian
fiction. 462 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (HS). Rating : 5.

Kristen Heitzmann's novel *Freefall* provides readers with plenty of suspense, drama, and mystery as it describes Gentry Fox, a famous movie star who meets with foul play in the Hawaiian wilderness, rendering her a partial amnesiac for days. When Gentry finally recalls bits and pieces of who she is and what she was doing in the Hanalei Mountains, she realizes that she had not hiked into the mountains alone. She returns to the scene of the incident with investigator Cameron Pierce who is able to help Gentry locate and save her injured uncle's life—but not his badly infected leg.

When the media gets wind of the event, things are blown out of proportion as the tabloids accuse Gentry of faking her amnesia and attempting to kill her uncle, among other outrageous things. Deeply wounded by his first wife, Cameron is highly suspicious of Gentry, and yet strongly attracted to her. Together they must sort out the challenges of their relationship amid the media hype and lack of privacy that goes hand in hand with Gentry's big screen career—along with unraveling the mystery of who attempted to kill her, and why.

As she does in her other novels, Heitzmann offers readers far more than entertainment by developing characters who are richly complex, both emotionally and spiritually. Although the story contains a few brief incidents of strong language and some sensuality, the scenes are handled tactfully, and emphasize Gentry's commitment to sexual purity. While the story is lengthy, it allows for complete development of a number of spiritual issues, including profound insights on forgiveness, redemption, emotional healing, and the purpose of pain. *Freefall* will also challenge readers' views about the role of believers operating in the realm of secular entertainment.

Sherri Beeler

Hannah Rose / Louise M. Gouge.
(Ahab's legacy ; 2.) LCCN
2004019120. Colorado Springs :
River Oak, 2005.

PAP, 1589190408, list price: \$12.99.

Fic. Ahab, Captain (Fictitious character)--
Fiction; Women--Massachusetts--Fiction; Ship
captains' spouses--Fiction; Whalers' spouses--
Fiction; Mothers and sons--Fiction; Slavery--
Fiction. 319 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (HS). Rating : 5.

The second book in the Ahab's Legacy trilogy finds Hannah, widow of the legendary Captain Ahab, fleeing to Boston in an attempt to escape—both from memories of the heart and from the angry throng embittered over the Captain's clash with the white whale. Choosing the surname Jacobs, Hannah seeks to keep her son safe until they can depart for a long European tour.

She begins to dabble in the mission work of dear friends, Jeremiah Harris and his wife, taking on more responsibility with reluctance, yet finding an unexpected inner satisfaction in her ministrations. When her dearest

friends elect to help escaped slaves from the pre-Civil War south, Hannah involves herself in the heart wrenching work. Her life is further complicated by the attentions of the compassionate Captain Lazarus, a former acquaintance, and the handsome Captain Dashwood, both supporting an opposing cause.

Marvelously written, *Hannah Rose* by Louise M. Gouge raises the spiritual dilemma of trusting God through all circumstances, even when it seems prayer is never answered and in spite of man's inhumanity to man. Well researched and rich with historical accuracy, Gouge's book pulls in the reader from the first page. A thought-provoking work, *Hannah Rose* will be enjoyed by many ages in search of a good story. Readers will receive the bonus of a glimpse into Boston's nineteenth century whaling community and explore the explosive issue of slavery.

A Reader's Guide with questions for group discussion or personal reflection is included at the back of the book. Highly recommended.

Cathy Elliott

Heartland / Davis Bunn. LCCN
2006002260. Nashville : WestBow
Press, 2006.

HBB, 1595542035, list price: \$21.99.

Fic. Television programs--Fiction; Accident
victims--Fiction; Christian fiction. 391 p. ; 24
cm.

Adult (HS). Rating : 5.

Could a faith-based TV show ever make it in Hollywood today? Davis Bunn tackles this question head on in this fascinating new novel. *Heartland* is a faith-based TV drama that follows the heroic lifestyle of fictional cowboy, JayJay Parsons. The future of *Heartland* is at stake when the lead actor who plays JayJay loses control of his lifestyle, and

at just the right time the unthinkable happens. A stranger wanders on set claiming to be the real JayJay Parsons: a TV character come to life. JayJay takes the place of the struggling actor and begins playing himself on the ever-popular TV series. As JayJay attempts to save the show he finds himself on an incredible personal journey to discover God's will for his own life.

Bunn takes us behind the scenes of modern day Hollywood and sheds light on the greed and corruption that are so prevalent. Through the character of JayJay, Bunn also reveals how God can be found in the places we sometimes least expect him. JayJay is a hero unlike any other whose only concern is doing God's will and helping others. The cast and crew of *Heartland* have no idea that they are about to embark upon a journey of faith and hope as JayJay begins to touch each of their lives. This story is encouraging and inspiring and it reminds us of the power to be found in trusting God. This book is highly recommended for anyone who ever doubts that the light of Christ can shine in our depraved culture.

Jake Chism

House / Frank Peretti and Ted Dekker. LCCN 2005037521. Nashville : WestBow Press, 2006.

HBB, 1595541551, list price: \$25.99.

Fic. Suspense fiction. xi, 386 p. : 24 cm. + 1 CD-ROM (4 3/4 in.).

Adult (HS). Rating : 5.

Hoping to salvage what is left of their shattered union, Jack and Stephanie decide to meet with a marriage counselor. En route, their car is nearly run off the road. Badly shaken, the couple finds they are lost on isolated dirt roads, deep in the Alabama backwoods. When hidden spikes in the road destroy their tires, Jack and Stephanie fear they are victims of a sick prank, or, worse

yet, a robbery. They take refuge in a nearby inn, only to find another couple has checked in under similar circumstances. During dinner, the strange proprietors of the inn suddenly become violent. A cat-and-mouse chase ensues through tunnels and dungeon-like basement rooms with "The wages of sin is death." scrawled above pentagrams on the walls.

House by Frank Peretti and Ted Dekker supplies classic horror, complete with spontaneously slamming doors, strange air currents, and voices in the walls, with a Christian twist. The message that all sin deserves nothing less than death is as clearly presented as the graffiti found on the basement walls. Writing style is fast-paced with a focused plot that provides an expert visual of how socially acceptable sin becomes nothing more than dross in the end. Peretti and Dekker expertly reveal every hidden flaw in these well-crafted, multidimensional characters. Frank Peretti, author of *This Present Darkness* (Crossway Books, 1986) and *The Oath* (Word, 1995; *CLJ*, Jan.1996), and Ted Dekker, author of *The Circle Trilogy: Black* (Westbow Press, 2004; *CLJ*, Nov.2004), *Red* (Westbow Press, 2004; *CLJ*, Nov.2004),) and *White* (Westbow Press, 2004; *CLJ*, Dec.2004),), are equally renowned for their supernatural thrillers. Book also available in Spanish. Includes trivia game CD-ROM with author interview clips. Reading Group guide found at publisher's website. Recommended for both public and school libraries.

Kim Harris

In every flower / Patti Hill. (Garden gates ; 3.) LCCN 2006019312. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2006.

PAP, 0764229397, 9780764229398, list price: \$12.99.

Fic. Stepfamilies--Fiction; Women gardeners--Colorado--Fiction; Remarried people--Fiction; Christian fiction. 316 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

Patti Hill's novel *In Every Flower* is third in the Garden Gates series, which should be read chronologically. Mibby returns from her deliriously sweet honeymoon and re-enters "real life," where the expectations she has for her marriage are not fulfilled. After six months Mibby realizes she and Larry are living in parallel universes and she settles for the fact that second-time marriage is simply going to be "functional and companionable." Frustrated by a mother-in-law who spends too much time in their home, terrified for her son who is flirting with drugs and alcohol, angry with her husband's approach to step-parenting, and still struggling with grief for the death of her first husband, Mibby is finally pushed to the edge where she must chose to surrender her son fully to the Lord and trust him to do what is right, while she works on restoring boundaries and intimacy in her marriage.

Hill's realistic portrayal of interpersonal relationships functions well on all levels in this story: husband to wife, mother to son and step-daughter, friend to friend, sister to sister. Hill reminds us that unrealistic expectations bring disappointment and depression, but illustrates that relationships are worth the hard work and investment of time and self that they require. The story contains one incident of strong slang; readers, however, will find themselves drawn to the main character because of the easily relatable first person narration that Hill employs.

Sherri Beeler

The jade bracelet : a novel / by Wilma Wall. LCCN 2006018961. Grand Rapids : Kregel Publications, 2006.

PAP, 0825439485, list price: \$13.99.

Fic. Chinese Americans--Fiction; Missions--China--Fiction; Christian fiction. 304 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (HS). Rating : 4.

Elsa Meier, a missionary kid living in China in the 1930s, is a spunky girl with a big imagination—completely the opposite of her mother, Rachel, a grim woman who hates China. Their relationship doesn't improve when, after the Chinese force all foreigners from the country, the Meiers return to California. It certainly doesn't improve after the death of Elsa's beloved father. But when Elsa has a daughter of her own, a child Rachel dotes on, there comes the possibility of reconciliation between all three women.

The Jade Bracelet is a lovely book, beautifully written, that expertly captures the essence of early 20th century China, making it seem fairy-tale beautiful. It just as expertly captures the character of its heroine Elsa, a lonely girl desperate for companionship. Despite the death of her toddler brother (a death she's partly responsible for), an unwanted move back to America where she does not fit in, and despite a lifetime of misunderstandings with her mother, Elsa matures into a fine woman who marries a loving man. And yet Elsa never stops grieving for the China of her youth, or longing for Rachel's acceptance.

Author Wilma Wall, who lived as a missionary in China as a child, does a wonderful job of making her characters real. The plot unfolds slowly, as the first 220 pages describe only twenty years of Elsa's life, but the carefully-researched text is always interesting. While later scenes seem rushed (twenty three years of Elsa's life are passed over with no details given) and the ending is more optimistic than realistic, *The Jade Bracelet* is a superb story, suitable for adults and teens. (A scene where the

nine year old Elsa is nearly raped is rather graphic).

Rosemarie DiCristo

The ultimate guide to Darcy Carter / by Teresa Slack. (Jenna's Creek novels 4.) LCCN 2006018678. Reedley, Calif : Tsaba House, 2006.

PAP, 1933853476, list price: \$15.99.

Fic. Self-perception--Fiction; Women authors--Fiction; North Carolina--Fiction; Love stories. .

Adult (HS). Rating : 4.

Darcy Carter writes how-to guides for nearly any subject, but when her editor requests a guide for finding Mr. Right, Darcy feels unprepared to tackle the topic. In need of a vacation and in an effort to escape the editor's request, Darcy drives to the South in an effort to research successful southern diners as a potential topic for her next how-to guide. While on her trip, Darcy suffers writer's block, but that doesn't stop her from eating at good diners and developing some new friendships. Most importantly, Darcy learns that when she submits to her Ultimate Guide, he can make her paths straight.

The Ultimate Guide to Darcy Carter, a romantic contemporary novel, feels like going on vacation complete with some funny misunderstandings and wrong turns. Teresa Slack's characters come complete with flaws, and face faith issues common to most believers. The southern bed and breakfast setting contributes to the mood of a vacation and provides a perfect backdrop for Darcy's discoveries about life and writing. Even though this light-hearted novel is occasionally predictable, it ends too soon, just like a vacation. The theme, always rely on the Ultimate Guide, applies to us all. "I like to think God had His hand in the design all along." p. 301

Kristina Wolcott

A love woven true / Tracie Peterson and Judith Miller. (Lights of Lowell ; 2.) LCCN 2004020014. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2005.

PAP, 0764228951, list price: \$12.99.

Fic. Widows--Fiction; Freedmen--Fiction; Abduction--Fiction; Textile industry--Fiction; Women landowners--Fiction; Fathers and daughters--Fiction ; Conflict of generations--Fiction ; Lowell (Mass.)--Fiction. 349 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

A Love Woven True by Tracie Peterson and Judith Miller, set in the mid-1800s, is the story of a family divided over the slavery issue. Written from the perspective of a southern girl, Jasmine Houston, widowed and living in the north, volunteers with the underground railroad while her family back home still owns slaves. Jasmine is torn between loyalties to her family and her conscience—especially when she tries to adopt an orphaned slave child. Jasmine's story is loosely linked to that of another widow in the northern town of Lowell, Massachusetts, Elinor Brighton. Elinor runs a boarding house for factory girls and becomes involved in the slavery issue to find a sense of purpose beyond her life of drudgery.

This is a touching story with likable characters although the plot is somewhat predictable. The authors present both sides of the issue and even allow for some compromise, thus adding a sense of realism to the story. The harshness of the time is presented, but is dealt with delicately. The character Elinor is particularly refreshing; she grows and changes the most throughout the story.

This novel will help the reader to get an unbiased look at a controversial time in history with a clear presentation of all sides of an issue that divided the country long after it was officially resolved.

Heather MacInnis

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**Marta's promise : a novel / by
Jeanne Dennis and Sheila Seifert.
LCCN 2006021946. Grand
Rapids : Kregel Publications,
2006.**

PAP, 0825424895, list price: \$13.99.

Fic. Germans--Soviet Union--Fiction;
Germany--Emigration and immigration--
Fiction; Russia--History--Catherine II, 1762-
1796--Fiction; Historical fiction; Christian
fiction. 317 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (HS). Rating : *5.

Marta's Promise by Jeanne Dennis and Sheila Seifert is an historical novel taking place in the late 1760s. A young single German girl of the Reform faith leaves Germany, her native land, to start a new life in Russia. Czarina Catherine, the German Empress of Russia, was encouraging German people to settle along the Volga River, and offered them certain incentives to do so. However, Catherine's actions were opposed by the German nobility. Also adding to the tenseness of the time is the conflict between the Reformers and the Papists.

Marta befriends a young orphan boy and a handsome Jewish man of questionable character. Their journey to a new life is filled with betrayal, dangers, and disappointments, enabling growing faith, friendship, and love.

This novel opens the reader's eyes to a time and place in history not often discussed. The setting and characters are unique, and the plot is fresh and unpredictable. This is a novel that could be read and enjoyed by just about anyone—especially anyone with a taste for history. I recommend it not only for adults, but for high school students as well, based on the historical content and its handling of prejudice issues, as well as the character qualities promoted: self-

sacrifice, endurance, honesty, sharing, loyalty, and commitment.

Heather MacInnis

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**Mending places : a novel / Denise
Hunter. (The new heights series ;
1.) LCCN 2003067766. West
Monroe, La. : Howard
Publishing, 2004.**

PAP, 1582293589, list price: \$12.99.

Fic. Mountain resorts--Fiction; Family-owned
businesses--Fiction; Mountaineering guides
(Persons)--Fiction; Teton Range (Wyo. and
Idaho)--Fiction; Love stories. 309 p. ; 21 cm.

**Saving Grace : a novel / Denise
Hunter. (The new heights series ;
2.) LCCN 2005040267. West
Monroe, La. : Howard
Publishing, 2005.**

PAP, 158229433X, list price: \$12.99.

Fic. Teenage girls--Fiction; Teenage
pregnancy--Fiction; Single mothers--Fiction;
Suspense fiction. 298 p. ; 21 cm.

**Finding Faith : a novel / Denise
Hunter. (The new heights series ;
3.) LCCN 2005055030. West
Monroe, La. : Howard
Publishing, 2006.**

PAP, 1582294917, list price: \$12.99.

Fic. Married people--Fiction; Infants switched
at birth--Fiction; Investigative reporting--
Fiction; Television journalists--Fiction;
Psychological fiction. 324 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult. Rating : *5.

In *Mending Places* by Denise Hunt, book one of The New Heights Series, Hanna Landin and her grandmother run a year-round resort lodge in Jackson, Wyoming. Notwithstanding its rustic charm, the lodge fails to attract enough customers to pay the bills. Chic resorts, offering a wider variety of services, have moved into the area, luring tourists away. In order to update her facility, hire new staff, and purchase some desperately needed advertising, Hanna

risks taking out a high interest loan. Despite her fear of men, Hanna finds herself becoming fascinated with Micah, the darkly attractive, trekker guide she has hired. Although Micah is a Christian, he cannot forgive himself for his abusive past and refuses to get involved with any woman. When guests start canceling reservations, Hanna begins to suspect Micah of sabotaging her business. Meanwhile, Hanna's grandmother shows signs of dementia and her sister, Natalie, tries to recover from a broken marriage.

In book two, *Saving Grace*, Natalie, now a single mother of two young boys, finds solace through helping troubled girls at the crisis pregnancy center. Linn, unmarried, teen, and pregnant, seeks Natalie's help. While Natalie considers adoption, her sister, Hanna, reveals her pregnancy, and sister, Paula, wrestles with infertility.

In book three, *Finding Faith*, Paula, a successful investigative reporter, must choose between a dream job and maintaining an unstable marriage. Linn, a new Christian, longs for the warmth of a real family and battles the temptation to fall for a man who is spoken for.

Denise Hunter expertly switches scenes, maintaining appropriate mood and atmosphere. Characters are well-rounded and delightful. Sense of time and place is enhanced by individual narratives that seamlessly blend. Dialogue is realistic and adds dimension. Plots are clearly defined, inviting, and easy to follow. Without being didactic, Hunter presents a prevailing theme that encompasses the human need to forgive, as well as to be forgiven. The reader is challenged to seek God's wisdom and compassion, rather than revenge. Each installment includes discussion questions. *Mending Places* includes a section for journaling personal experiences. Highly recommended for

public libraries.

Kim Harris

Mountain top / by Robert Whitlow. LCCN 2006025328. Nashville : WestBow Press, 2006.

HBB, 1595541314, list price: \$21.998.

Fic. Visions--Fiction; Legal stories; Christian fiction. 393 p. ; 24 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

Robert Whitlow shines again in his latest installment. Sam Miller is a friendly old man with a special gift: God speaks to him in dreams. Sam uses these dreams to help others and warn them, and he believes it his personal mission to deliver these divine messages. When Sam's mission suddenly lands him in jail for a crime he didn't commit, he must depend on former lawyer turned pastor, Mike Andrews, to help him out. Mike feels compassion to help Sam, but when he realizes his job and reputation are at stake he wonders if he should get involved. As Sam's case opens up a door to a local conspiracy involving local higher-ups, Mike finds himself in the middle of a power struggle he wants no part of. He must now decide if he is willing to help an innocent man, even if it means losing his job and his friends.

This is not your typical legal novel. There is no lengthy trial and hardly any time at all is spent in the courtroom. Instead, Whitlow focuses on the spiritual struggles Mike and Sam are battling. Their journeys encourage us to have complete faith in God and never give up, no matter the circumstances. Whitlow tosses in the perfect amount of legal procedures and lingo to give the story a sense of realism and the plot is masterfully paced. Readers will be immersed into the beauty of the North Carolina mountains as Whitlow beautifully describes local landscapes. Readers expecting a fast-paced legal thriller will be disappointed with the

direction Whitlow takes. However, those who are open to a good story full of spiritual struggles and themes of redemption will enjoy *Mountain Top*.

Jake Chism

Mozart's sister : a novel / Nancy Moser. LCCN 2006017650. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2006.

PAP, 0764201239, 9780764201233, list price: \$12.99.

Fic. Berchtold zu Sonnenburg, Maria Anna Mozart, Reichsfreiin von, 1751-1829--Fiction; Historical fiction; Christian fiction. 332 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (HS). Rating : 4.

Nannerl Mozart, older sister of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, is eleven years old in 1762. Performing before royalty throughout Europe, the child prodigies grow weary from the difficulties of traveling, Wolfgang's illnesses, and their father's constant obsession with money.

The injustices of being a woman in the late 1700s soon become evident to Nannerl as she is often ignored and pushed aside as her father concentrates his efforts on bringing her brother's talent to the world. Nannerl's dreams of making music her life's work are dashed, and she is trapped in a virtual prison as she is forced to aid her parents in helping Wolfgang achieve fame and fortune.

Written by Nancy Moser in first person voice, *Mozart's Sister* is a historical novel about the life of Baroness Maria Anna Walburga Ignatia Berchtold zu Sonnenburg, who preferred to be known simply as Nannerl Mozart. This interesting behind-the-scenes look into the lives of the Mozart family is heartbreaking at times as the young Nannerl's talent is largely ignored, but later inspires as an older Nannerl seeks God's purpose in her life.

Because of the large amount of correspondence from father Leopold Mozart, used in researching this book, *Mozart's Sister* is highly accurate historical fiction. A prisoner of the time period in which she was born, Nannerl is forced to sacrifice much for the sake of her brother's fame and fortune at a time when men dominated the world.

Sherri Myers

Professor Van Dusen : the thinking machine / by Jacques Futrelle. (Fingerprint classics.) LCCN 2005009302. Greenville, S.C. : JourneyForth, 2005.

PAP, 1591663849, list price: \$7.49.

Fic. Van Dusen, Augustus S. F. X. (Fictitious character)--Fiction; Detective and mystery stories, American; College teachers--Fiction; Boston (Mass.)--Fiction. 194 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (HS). Rating : 3.

Jacques Futrelle, who died in the Titanic disaster, first published his stories about Professor Van Dusen in serial form in magazines. The wild-haired and crotchety professor, who has earned several degrees and has many areas of expertise, solves a variety of problems through logic. The reporter character, Hutchinson Hatch, gives him his nickname, The Thinking Machine. In "The Problem of Cell 13," the professor, who is guilty of no crime, escapes from a prison cell just for the challenge. In stories like "The Problem of the Stolen Rubens" and "The Problem of the Cross Mark," he solves a crime.

These stories are clever and intriguing and will please all those thinking readers who like to see brainy solutions to problems. The professor character is completely knowable with his signature quirky behavior and favorite sayings. Stories are suspenseful and quick-moving and challenge the mind as the reader tries to solve the problem along with the professor. Although the style is

not overly descriptive, the reader still captures a feeling of a past time. Sympathy for the professor compels the reader to read on and see what solution he will find.

Susan Joy Clark

A promise for Ellie / Lauraine Snelling. (Daughters of Blessing ; 1.) LCCN 2006013799. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2006.

PAP, 0764228099, list price: \$12.99.

Fic. North Dakota--Fiction. 314 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (HS). Rating : 4.

A Promise for Ellie by Lauraine Snelling, is the first novel in the Daughters of Blessing Series which is a spin-off of the earlier Red River of the North Series. Ellie Wold is about to marry her childhood sweetheart, Andrew Bjorklund, just after their high school graduation. When certain obstacles appear, Andrew's father asks them to postpone the wedding for several months. The journey that carries them through that challenging time increases doubts and reveals misunderstandings. It threatens all their dreams and teaches them powerful lessons.

A Promise for Ellie gives a realistic portrayal of life in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The characters are well developed and endearing. The plot is well structured, allows room for surprises, and is told with good humor. This story would be helpful to young adults considering marriage as well as those looking back to that time in their lives. The messages of obedience, respect and self-control make this novel a positive reading experience.

Unfortunately, there are a lot of references to earlier books which really aren't necessary for our understanding and appreciation of this particular novel. Recommended.

Heather MacInnis

Reading between the lines / Rick Hamlin LCCN 2006043699. New York : Howard Books, 2006.

PAP, 1582295786, list price: \$12.99.

Fic. Man-woman relationships--Fiction; Flute players--Fiction; Widowers--Fiction; Love stories. 305 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

Reading Between the Lines by Rick Hamlin delivers a poignant love story full of hope in the power of prayer. Elizabeth Ash, concert flutist and flute teacher, discovers some old Harriet Mueller romance books at a rummage sale. As she reads them, she finds the previous owner scribbled bits of love letters in the margins. Touched by the love story written in the margins, Elizabeth determines to find the rightful owner of the books. Meanwhile, Jim Lockhart finds his days consumed with work and working out. Though Jim prays for the Lord's will each morning, finding the faith to get through grief and the possibility of new love challenges him more than ever. He finds himself continually praying, "Jesus Christ, have mercy upon me. Make haste to help me. Rescue me and save me. Let thy will be done in my life." p.54

Reading Between the Lines moves gracefully and melds romance with suspense. The characters find themselves facing change in their lives and determining to be better than before. Jim prays the prayer above like a mantra, but neither he nor Elizabeth exhibit other signs of a deep belief in Christ outside of trying to be good. The New York City setting lends credibility to the artistic professions chosen by Jim and Elizabeth. Abundant dialogue is realistic and sometimes lends humor to the scene. Hamlin shines at perceiving the intricacies of relationships as well as providing hope for the future. As Mrs.

Halladay says, "If you waited long enough, if you were patient, if you had faith in the One who controls all things, things worked out. Not always how you expected them to, not always when you expected, but they worked out." p. 304

Kristina Wolcott

Redemption's song / Teresa D. Slack. (Jenna's Creek series ; 2.) LCCN 2005032826. Reedley, Calif. : Tsaba House, 2006.

PAP, 0972548629, list price: \$16.99.

Fic. Teenage girls--Fiction; Ohio--Fiction. 340 p. ; 23 cm.

Adult (HS). Rating : 3.

Redemption's Song, the second book in the Jenna's Creek series by Teresa Slack lets the reader see Jamie Steele in two roles. First we see a hesitant college student searching for meaning in her life. The second half focuses on her fiancé's family as she waits for him to come to terms with his life.

Jamie Steele's plans to attend a local college with her boyfriend, Jason Collier, are threatened when he receives a full scholarship offer from Stanford. After he tells Jamie the news she breaks off their relationship insisting he will never return to Jenna's Creek, Ohio, after living in California.

Sad and lonely, Jamie enrolls at her local college alone, without any friends except her roommate. A chance meeting pairs her with an acquaintance from Jenna's Creek, Eric Blackwood. Eric insists she accept his offer of riding to and from school. After all, they live in the same town and he has a car. Jenna agrees and soon they share school work, Bible study, and join a co-ed baseball team. Slack's writing glows within the intimate and tender scenes that let Jamie and Eric fall in love.

The second half of *Redemption's Song* focuses on the Blackwood family.

Jamie stands by Eric as he and his family work to settle their mother's dark secret and the shadow cast on Eric's parentage.

Teresa Slack changes points of view often within chapters and puffs her expanded exposition with diverse thoughts.

Maxine Cambra

The replacement : a novel / Susan Wales and Robin Shope. LCCN 2006006884. Grand Rapids : Fleming H. Revell, 2006.

PAP, 0800731115, list price: \$12.99.

Fic. Investigative reporting--Fiction; Women journalists--Fiction; Politicians--Fiction; Missing persons--Fiction. 365 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult. Rating : 3.

When Senator Brown collapses on the Capitol sidewalk from an apparent heart attack, spicy Jill Lewis, reporter for the Washington Gazette, suspects foul play and launches an investigation that puts her in the middle of a death match over MST, a potential medical marvel derived from snake venom carried by the Saw Scale Viper, which also makes a handy, if exotic, murder weapon. Senator Brown's replacement, Tommy Harrison, seems a likely suspect, and romantic interest, but others seem equally suspicious. Then there is the mysterious Fish & Game Commission File. Would drug companies stoop to murder? Such curiosities keep the reader of *The Replacement* guessing...and reading...to the surprising conclusion.

A strong plot carries the reader to the final destination at a fast pace with very little drift. Characters are vivid and well-developed. Jill is particularly magnetic with a do-or-die, spunky approach to her job--and life. Dialogue is effective but often propped up with creaky mechanics as the characters bark, reiterate, remind, and gush their words.

There is also a noticeable overuse of "as" and "-ing" construction that relegates some action to dependant clauses which make the action seem secondary or unimportant and weakens the writing. For example: "David tagged along behind her as Jill sloshed down the steps, detouring around a news crew that was setting up equipment." Frequently scenes drift into telling rather than showing, as when the writers tell us that Jill went through a room like a crazy person rather than showing her going through the room like a crazy person.

The general mood and atmosphere remain light and uplifting, even when the characters weather arduous times. The writing invokes some smiles but falls short of laugh-out-loud moments. The spiritual payload is light. At times Jill seems to be struggling with her faith, but this aspect is not developed beyond quoting the 23d psalm when death looms imminent.

Most of the story's mysteries are revealed at the end in a disappointing throw-back to the Sherlock Holmes style of gathering everyone in a room in a summary chapter and telling the other characters what happened rather than enlightening the reader through effective storytelling. Overlooking the stylistic shortcomings, however, the book is a good read and maintains the highest standards of ethics and morality.

William Patrick Davis

Skills / F. P. Lione. (Midtown blue series.) LCCN 2005033662. Grand Rapids : Fleming H. Revell, 2006.

PAP, 0800758621, list price: \$12.99.

Fic. Police--New York (State)--New York--Fiction; Cavalucci, Tony (Fictitious character)--Fiction; New York (N.Y.)--Fiction; Christian fiction; Love stories. 319 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

Officer Tony Cavalucci lives in a world

peopled with alcoholics, drug dealers, and various other miscreants. The job of apprehending often violent criminals, while maintaining a professional demeanor, is wearing on him. In *Skills* by F. P. Lione, the third book in the Midtown Blue contemporary fiction series, Tony gives a first person account of life as a police officer on the streets of New York City. Tony's partner, Joe Fiore, is a Christian who consistently displays and openly shares his faith with his fellow officers. Michele, Tony's fiancée, also a Christian, is a schoolteacher and single mother. With the help of Joe and Michele, Tony, a new Christian, works to clean up his life. As a former alcoholic, Tony is challenged at work and family functions where old friends and relatives ridicule him for his nonconformity. Tony, until lately, has been active in his big Italian family's drinking, feuding, and partying exploits. His grandmother blames Michele for Tony's maverick behavior. She throws an engagement party for them and does everything she can to insure that Michele feels like an outcast.

Although Tony smokes, mild profanity is used, and group humor is, at times, off color, the authenticity of heart attitude and displayed spiritual growth is consistently demonstrated throughout. Interspersed with crisp sketches of people, places, and events is realistic dialogue that effortlessly moves the story along. F. P. Lione is a composite of the married writer team, Frank and Pam Lione. Both are children of NYPD detectives and Frank is an NYPD veteran, as well. Recommended for public libraries.

Kim Harris

Son of perdition / Louise M. Gouge. (Ahab's legacy ; 3.) LCCN 2005016659. Colorado Springs : River Oak, 2005.

PAP, 1589190416, list price: \$12.99.

Fig. Widows--Fiction; Whalers' spouses--Fiction; Mothers and sons--Fiction; Ahab, Captain (Fictitious character)--Fiction; Ship captains' spouses--Fiction; Nantucket Island (Mass.)--Fiction. 318 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult (HS). Rating : 5.

Timothy Jacobs, son of the legendary Captain Ahab of Moby Dick fame, comes to maturity in *Son of Perdition*, the third book in the Ahab's Legacy trilogy. Timothy and his mother, Hannah, have success starting life again in Boston and Jacobs thrives under the guidance of a kind stepfather. Yet the young man is haunted by the possibility he possesses evil traits like his biological father, the crazed Captain Ahab. Faced with difficult choices, Timothy struggles with whether his own attempts to do good and reverse his father's legacy is enough to satisfy a just God.

Timothy embarks upon manhood, enters the Naval Academy at Annapolis, and falls in love with Jemima, the daughter of one of Ahab's former seamen. Jacobs's attempts to befriend her brother, Isaiah, are blocked because of Isaiah's unforgiveness over the death of his own father under Ahab's watch. As the Civil War approaches, Timothy must make hard choices that put him at odds with Isaiah, the one with whom he most wants to reconcile for Jemima's sake.

Son of Perdition concludes the trilogy in a manner that satisfies the reader while it illuminates, as well. Louise M. Gouge's elegant prose is again in evidence and, coupled with well-researched details of the period and place, makes for an unexpected history lesson. The series could serve as a method to enlighten students about daily life and struggles in the nineteenth century pre-Civil War era while delivering a riveting tale that will keep the reader turning the pages. Gouge's books are a primer on how to craft a great story, beautifully written and a gift

to the heart.

A Reader's Guide with questions for group discussion or personal reflection is included at the back of the book. Highly recommended.

Cathy Elliott

A sounding brass / Shelley Bates. LCCN 2005034424. New York : Warner Faith, 2006.

PAP, 0446694924, list price: \$12.99.

Fig. Police--Fiction; Radio broadcasting--Fiction; Evangelists--Fiction. 287 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

Rather than follow her dreams away from the small town of Hamilton Falls, young Claire Montoya lives in a tiny room above a book store, works at the community bank, and wears all black. A devout member of an austere religious order called the Elect, Claire views her existence as a living sacrifice to Jesus. When her closest friends leave town and one of the group's leaders is charged with rape, Claire begins to re-evaluate her life. She accepts a job as an accountant for the local radio station, working for the charismatic new DJ, Luke Fisher. Besides being handsome and available, Luke is also a member of the Elect. Soon after Luke arrives, he initiates donation programs that generate thousands of dollars and persuades the Elect to raise money for a worship center. He seems to be the perfect man to everyone, except investigator Ray Harper, who suspects Luke's motives to be less than admirable. Ray is drawn to the vulnerable, naive Elect, especially the striking Claire.

A Sounding Brass by Shelley Bates, book three of the Elect trilogy, combines tender romance with a gentle reminder to focus more on the Lord than on religious doctrine. Bates' story of innocence and betrayal is gracefully rendered at a seamless pace. Sparsely

sketched characters are developed into warmly fleshed out individuals with believable dialogue and welcoming personalities. Seasoned romance writer and freelance editor, Shelley Bates received the 2005 RITA Award for her novel *Grounds to Believe* (Steeple Hill, 2004), an inspirational romance about an investigator who infiltrates a cult to end its induction of innocent children. A brief reading group guide and an excerpt from Bates' upcoming book are included. Recommended for public libraries and Christian readers groups.

Kim Harris

Together for good : a novel / by Melanie Dobson. LCCN 2006007930. Grand Rapids : Kregel, 2006.

PAP, 0825424445, list price: \$12.99.

Fig. Loss (Psychology)--Fiction; Adopted children--Fiction. 317 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (HS). Rating : 3.

Abby Wagner was devastated twenty years ago when the infant son she and her husband adopted was reclaimed by its birth mother. Now a widow with a daughter of her own, Abby, a successful public relations executive, is asked to run a campaign for the same adoption agency that caused her so much pain. When she finds she can't, she flees to Orcas Island, Washington, the place where she'd spent many happy summers as a teen. There she reconnects with Damian De Lucia, a man she once cared deeply about. And there her daughter falls in love with Marc, a well-mannered young man that Abby can't stand.

Together for Good is a romance novel with a bit of a twist: what's clear to the reader—but not to Abby—is that Marc is the boy she'd adopted and lost. The book is a pleasant read, although somewhat slow moving, and the subplots, which carefully describe the workings of a P.R. firm and the

problems caused by pollution of Puget Sound, take away from the two romances and the eventual reunion of Abby and Marc. Also, Abby's repressed emotions over losing Marc make her initially unlikable, and the large cast of characters is initially confusing; chapters come from the points of view of Abby, daughter Jessie, Damian (a washed-up marine biologist now running whale watching tours), Marc, and even Stacie, Marc's birth mother. A strong Christian focus, however, comes from Abby turning her back on God after the failed adoption but being led back to her faith by Damian and Marc.

Melanie Dobson, a former corporate public relations manager at Focus on the Family, includes information on overcoming panic attacks, as well as a set of discussion questions about the characters, at the end of the novel.

Rosemarie DiCristo

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Waking Lazarus / T.L. Hines.
L C C N 2 0 0 6 0 0 7 7 7 6 .
Minneapolis : Bethany House,
2006.

HBB, 0764202049, list price: \$18.99.

Fic. Supernatural--Fiction; Suspense fiction.
293 p. ; 24 cm.

Adult. Rating : *5.

Jude Allman lives a peacefully anonymous, if paranoid, existence in the small town of Red Lodge, Montana. Early in his life, Jude discovers he has highly intuitive, even prophetic gifts, but his mother's death and dad's rejection embitter him toward God. After being declared officially "dead" and coming back to life three times, he has become a bit of a media spectacle. Battling a cloudy past and frequent black outs, Jude finds security in the guise of Ron Gress, the mild-mannered school janitor.

When young children in the area begin to turn up missing Jude is persuaded to use his gifts to unearth the killer. With the support of two encouraging women and the driving need to protect his young son, Jude faces not only the monsters of his childhood fantasies, but God's sovereign presence, as well.

Waking Lazarus, by T. L. Hines, is a Christian suspense thriller written in a riveting style similar to that of Bill Myers, Frank Peretti, and Ted Dekker. Quality of writing is reminiscent of the classic literary greats, yet with the hope of God's pervading presence added. Although characters are finely sketched, each maintains a shadowy persona that fittingly creates an atmosphere of suspicion and mistrust. Plot is consistently fast-paced, sustaining a mood of urgency. Twists and turns keep curiosity fresh. Given the extreme frustration the protagonist experiences pre-conversion, the brief use of mild profanity is appropriate. Dialogue is realistic and fluid. Highly recommended for public libraries, academic collections, and reluctant readers.

Kim Harris

When crickets cry : a novel of the heart / Charles Martin. LCCN 2005021515. Nashville : WestBow Press, 2006.

PAP, 1595540547, list price: \$14.99.

Fic. Georgia--Fiction. ix, 336 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

When Reese Mitchell meets little Annie Stephens, he instinctively knows she has a heart problem. Learning the full extent of Annie's condition floods Reese with memories of Emma, his wife who died from a similar condition. Reese befriends Annie and her Aunt Cindy but hesitates to tell them the truth about his life. As Annie's condition worsens, Reese must face his heart problems in

order to help her in a way only he can. In the process, Reese begins to find healing. "...hope lives here, and death can't kill it." p. 246

Charles Martin's book, *When Crickets Cry*, possesses a lyrical quality. The descriptions open a door to the South without bogging down the plot. The slowly paced southern setting offsets the intensely dramatic fight for survival. An example of emergent church fiction, the characters struggle, deal with their personal pains, and help each other the best they know how. In fact, one of the characters has a bar he uses in an attempt to reach people for the Lord (p. 88). At one point, when Annie is severely injured, one of the characters uses the Lord's name in vain (p. 12). A wealth of clinical information about the heart only enhances the true need of the heart- hope that only God gives.

Kristina Wolcott

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When the day of evil comes : a novel of suspense / Melanie Wells. LCCN 2004029822. Sisters, Ore. : Multnomah, 2005.

PAP, 1590524268, list price: \$12.99.

Fic. Spiritual warfare--Fiction; Christian fiction. 317 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult. Rating : *5.

Dylan Foster, a clinical psychologist and professor at Southern Methodist University (SMU) is experiencing some strange occurrences. Single and in her early thirties, Dylan has survived lengthy graduate and doctoral programs, her parents' divorce, and her mother's subsequent death. When she attends a staff picnic, Dylan meets Peter Terry, a creepy, sickly looking man, who acts uncomfortably familiar toward her. Soon after her encounter with Peter Terry, she begins waking up to

unexplainable thumps and bumps in the night, her home is invaded by giant flies, and her mother's wedding ring is returned to her from beyond the grave. Upon seeking counsel from a couple of old college friends, Dylan is advised to pray and don her armor for spiritual warfare. Dylan's life begins to unravel when she is linked to one of her students' recurring nightmares and another student's suicide.

When the Day of Evil Comes, by Melanie Wells, is book one in the Heavenly Realms series. The writing style of this Christian spiritual-warfare fiction is both relaxed and grammatically sound. Plot is fast-paced, consistently drawing the reader from point to point. Through believable and entertaining dialogue key information is conveyed. One example of this is a conversation between friends concerning both angels and demons. The interchange reassures the reader that these beings, like humans, are merely created beings, and, unlike God, are neither omnipotent nor omnipresent. Wells' first person, narrative style welcomes an immediate bond between reader and protagonist. Characters are expertly presented and developed. Highly recommended.

Kim Harris

Whispers of winter / Tracie Peterson. (Alaskan quest ; 3.) L C C N 2 0 0 6 0 1 9 5 0 8 . Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2006.

PAP, 0764227750, 9780764227752, list price: \$13.99.

Fic. Survival after airplane accidents, shipwrecks, etc.--Fiction; Alaska--Fiction; Christian fiction; Sea stories. 381 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult (HS). Rating : 5.

The Regina, a small ship contracted to take explorers to the Arctic, sinks, leaving Jayce and Jacob, along with the

Regina's captain and crew, marooned on a frozen island in the Arctic. Leah struggles to trust that God will bring her husband, Jayce, and brother, Jacob, home safely and provide a stable family life for her newborn twins. Helaina, who has thrown caution to the wind and returned to Alaska, worries that, even if Jacob is still alive, he will no longer love her. When the twins become deathly ill, two dear friends die, and a beloved village is lost to an influenza epidemic, Leah and her family seek God's help to see them through.

Whispers of Winter by Tracie Peterson is the third book in the Alaskan Quest series. Set against the timeless, frozen beauty of the land of the midnight sun, Peterson weaves a heartwarming drama filled with life and death, love and trust. Shadows of war and the population expansion accompanying the perpetual westward movement of the railroad add depth. Dialogue blends smoothly with descriptions. Although the plot is difficult to define, characters remain as welcoming and lifelike as in the first two books in the series. The message is clear, that, even when we don't understand why God does the things he does, he is still in control, still loves us, and will see us through even the worst of times. Recommended.

Kim Harris

Winter birds / Jamie Langston Turner. LCCN 2006017659. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2006.

PAP, 0764200151, list price: \$13.99.

Fic. Widows--Fiction; Older women--Fiction. 399 p. ; 22 cm.

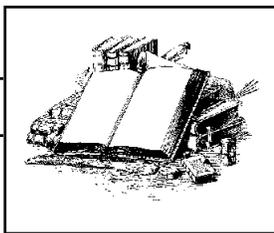
Adult. Rating : 4.

In *Winter Birds* by Jamie Langston Turner, Sophia Hess decides to leave her estate to the relative willing to care for her in the winter of her life. When she moves in with her nephew Patrick and

his wife Rachel, she observes their faith firsthand. A lack of loving relationships marks Sophia's eighty years, so she doesn't immediately recognize the quiet love Rachel gives to her. After a life filled with many painful memories, moments of grace seek to soothe her wounded soul.

Jaime Langston Turner creates rich, round characters in this work of contemporary fiction. She randomly weaves through Sophia's memories. The sparse introductory dialogue increases as Sophia becomes better acquainted with Patrick and Rachel. Sophia's wry thoughts and observations provide occasional humor. The plot develops slowly and carefully. Though much of the book deals with Sophia's memories, moments in the present reveal Sophia's new world, including new neighbors with a troubled teen and a debilitated daughter, an employee Patrick and Rachel invite over to many dinners, and of course, Patrick and Rachel, who are imperfect but lovable in their attempts to share God's love with those around them. "And how do I explain what Rachel has done?...I do not dare to say that she washed my feet because she loves me. I am an old woman with no blood ties to her...In the end I have no explanation that makes sense. It is a mystery." p.333

Kristina Wolcott



Classic teenplots : a booktalk guide to use with readers ages 12-18 / by John T. Gillespie and Corinne J. Naden. (Children's and young adult literature reference.) LCCN 2006017624. Westport, Conn. : Libraries Unlimited, 2006.

HBB, 1591583128, list price: \$55.00.

011.62/5. Book talks; Teenagers—Books and reading--United States; Young adult literature--Stories, plots, etc. xvi, 348 p. ; 24 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

In 1967 John Gillespie published *Juniorplots* through R.R. Bowker, and forty years later he continues the same format with *Classic Teenplots*. The title might be a little misleading to some readers as the book contains many contemporary books such as *The Color Purple* (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1982), *Weep No More My Lady* (pub, date), and *A Child Called It* (Health Communications, 1995). This resource will appeal to those interested in presenting book talks to young people ages 12-18, or perhaps younger with some titles. There is an eclectic mix of nearly one hundred old and new fiction titles with definite teen appeal. Books are categorized into eight subject areas: Teenage Life and Concerns; Social Concerns and Problems; Science Fiction and Fantasy; Historical Fiction and Other Lands; Adventure and Mystery Stories; Animal Stories; Sport Stories; and Important Nonfiction. After the bibliographic information the author provides additional material such as brief author info, description of the book's principal characters, plot summaries, and lists of both primary and secondary themes and subjects within book. In addition, readers will find noted excerpts to share including page numbers, suggested books that are similar in subject or theme, and further book and author information sources. There is also an appendix listing

websites and other references of interest. There is a thorough index divided into author, subject, and title sections. Librarians, teachers, parents, and even students will find this a useful reference.

Pam Webb

Running a small library : a how-to-do-it manual / edited by John Moorman. (How-to-do-it manuals for librarians ; 149.) LCCN 2006012457. New York : Neal-Schuman, 2006.

PAP, 1555705499, list price: \$59.95.

25.1. Small libraries--Administration--Handbooks, manuals, etc. xv, 336 p. ; 28 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

Libraries, especially small libraries, are challenged to meet the needs of their targeted community, be it the municipal residents or a select few patronizing a private collection. With this challenge in mind, John A. Moorman has provided a manual focused on just such needs. *Running a Small Library* is as straight forward as its title. The book is broken up into five sections: Introducing the Small Library; Administration in the Small Library; Public Services in the Small Library; Collection Development in the Small Library; Computers and Automation in the Small Library. Each section provides a succinct, thorough overview. Defining the library and what is entailed in running it is outlined in the book by contributing library professionals in the field.

The book's strong point is its approach in providing depth without going becoming boring or difficult to read. This is a valuable reference for those needing a quick, yet informative look in the various components of a well-run library. The quality and information provided add or impart knowledge to the reader because of the thoughtful selection of the field professionals for each section. For those seeking to

further their information search there is a complete appendix of sources that will provide readers with lists of state library agencies, vendors, and professional organizations. A complete bibliography and index is also provided. A book well worth looking into for those needing a quick, yet comprehensive guide to running the small library, both for those looking into going into the field, as well as those already working in that capacity.

Pam Webb

Conversion tables / Mona L. Scott 3rd ed LCCN 2005030846. Westport, Conn. : Libraries Unlimited, 2006.

PAP, 1591583489, list price: \$95.00.

025.4/33. Classification, Library of Congress; Classification, Dewey decimal; Reclassification (Libraries). 3 v. ; 28 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

Conversion Tables, 3rd edition by Mona L. Scott, is a hands-on, three volume set designed to be utilized as a routine copy cataloging reference tool. The collection consists of information derived from the 22nd edition of the Dewey decimal classification, most contemporary Library of Congress classification schedules, and LC Subject Headings. This revision of the 2nd edition reflects subject updates of modern events, including: September 11, 2001, Terrorist Attacks, and the Iraq War of 2003. Classification of subject areas have been expanded to include subjects like: 401 (k) plans, Anorexia, and CPR (First aid). Although Volumes 1 – 3 each contain LC, Dewey, and Subject Heading categories, each volume is arranged to emphasize the unique characteristics of the separate categories. Segment highlighted in Volume 1 is LC; Volume 2 is Dewey; and Volume 3 is Subject Headings. Mona L. Scott has worked as a teacher and counselor with special

emphasis in library automation. Her resume includes positions held as Head of Cataloging at the U.S. Bureau of the Census Library, Systems Librarian at the Judges' Library for the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, and Head of Technical Services and Systems at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center Library. Information is formatted into easy access columns with bolded headings, clear font, and appropriate white space between columns. Set is published by Libraries Unlimited, well-known for its quality reference and educational books. Recommended for professional use in all libraries.

Kim Harris

Brain friendly school libraries / Judith Anne Sykes. LCCN 2005030843. Westport, Conn. : Libraries Unlimited, 2006.

PAP, 1591582466, list price: \$35.00.

27.8. School libraries--Aims and objectives; Learning--Physiological aspects; Teacher-librarians; Information literacy--Study and teaching; School librarian participation in curriculum planning; Libraries and education; Brain. xxi, 109 p. : ill. ; 26 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

During the past decade, society has begun to question the need for traditional libraries. Many of the invaluable services libraries perform are difficult to track. As a result, marketing the library as a business, has become the topic of various educational resources for librarians. *Brain Friendly School Libraries* by Judith Anne Sykes proposes a justification for the school library and practical ideas on its interconnection with students, teachers, and funding agencies. Sykes' theory, based on expert findings in brain research and her personal experience as author, teacher, school librarian, assistant principal, and principal, presents the library much like the human brain, with qualities that are as integral

to the school and civilized culture as the brain is to the body. She suggests that, similar to the way in which the brain is constantly assimilating information and adjusting to an ever-changing environment, libraries need to be ready and willing to continue to develop both information formats and physical design to better meet the evolving learning and literacy needs of their users. Rather than guarding a stiff, unbending institution, library personnel are encouraged to create an interactive environment that becomes the center for learning and supports outward exploration of information.

Although writing style often reads like a dissertation and some references seem slightly outdated (i.e. Wolfe, Pat. 1997. Bringing Brain Research into Classroom Practice. Salt Lake City, UT: Video Journal of Education (video recording)), overall, Sykes' theory warrants attention. Extensive bibliography and index included. Recommended as a secondary professional purchase for school librarians.

Kim Harris

Is the Bible intolerant? : and sexist? and oppressive? and homophobic? and outdated? and irrelevant? / Amy Orr-Ewing. LCCN 2005028343. Downers Grove, Ill. : InterVarsity Press, 2005.

PAP, 083083351X, list price: \$12.00.

220.1. Bible--Evidences, authority, etc. 142 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

Any Christian who spends time talking openly about matters of faith will inevitably face tough questions asked by those who no longer take absolute truth for granted. This book is designed to be an up-to-date tool that will answer ten of the most common and difficult questions from an evangelical perspective. When

asking the basic question "how do we arrive at truth?" she answers, "for the Christian, the starting point is God" (p. 8). There are debates within Christian circles as to how to approach apologetics, but this book avoids the extremes characteristic of such debates by using both intellectual reasoning and Scripture. The author writes in a style that will be very accessible to most adults and the issues raised are dealt with in a succinct manner that does not leave the reader drained.

Although written within the context of England, most of the content is relevant for the United States. The author engages such questions as intolerance; wars; can we know anything about history, is the content of the manuscripts reliable?" and "what about the other holy books?." In areas where Christians differ, such as the legitimacy of war, the author briefly outlines the various positions. Some Christians will take issue with her view of women in ministry (chp. 7) and the ongoing use of parts of the Mosaic Law (p.117) for Christians. Many will appreciate the inclusion of a chapter on answering tough questions from Islam. In sum, this book would be perfect for discussing Christianity on college campuses.

David Wenkel

The message of the Old Testament : promises made / Mark Dever ; foreword by Graeme Goldsworthy. LCCN 2005031730. Wheaton, Ill. : Crossway Books, 2006.

HBB, 1581347170, list price: \$39.99.

221/.06. Bible. O.T.--Criticism, interpretation, etc.; Bible. O.T.--Sermons; Sermons, American--21st century; Baptists--Sermons. 959 p. ; 24 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

Written to clarify the Old Testament for modern readers, *The Message of the Old*

Testament : Promises Made also shows how the book clearly points to Christ. Consisting of several years of sermons preached by Mark Dever, senior pastor of the Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., it's geared to pastors wanting to preach the Old Testament as well as to lay persons wanting to better understand a sometimes dull and confusing book. Yet *The Message of the Old Testament* is not dull. Despite its length (almost one thousand pages, with chapters often topping twenty pages), it is exceptionally readable, perhaps owing to its origins as Dever's sermons.

Dever begins by summarizing the entire Bible, then the Old Testament, then breaks down and analyzes each book of the Old Testament, tackling one book per chapter of his book. Ample information is given on each book, including historical background, details on prior and future lives of the main characters, and how its themes relate to the 21st Century. Lengthy passages—sometimes entire chapters—of the Old Testament are quoted. Dever's sermon outlines are included, as are prayers and questions to ponder based on each book.

Special focus is given to explaining such points as the differences between 1 and 2 Kings and 1 and 2 Chronicles, or the differences between the major and minor prophets. Other topics covered: how God can hate sin yet forgive it; how Christians should deal with other religions; whether Christians should legislate morality.

This ambitious book presents a huge amount of information in straightforward fashion. Readers unfamiliar with the Old Testament, looking for a fresh take on it, or looking for a more serious study of it will all be satisfied. (Dever has also written *The Message of the New Testament: Promises Kept* (Crossway Books,

2005)).

Rosemarie DiCristo

The suburban Christian : finding spiritual vitality in the land of plenty / by Albert Y. Hsu. LCCN 2006004130. Downers Grove, Ill. : InterVarsity Press, 2006.

PAP, 083083334X, list price: \$15.00.

223.09173/3. Human geography; Consumption (Economics)--Religious aspects--Christianity; Materialism)--Religious aspects--Christianity; Sacred space; Suburbanites)--Religious aspects--Christianity; Christianity and geography--United States. 220 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult. Rating : 3.

The Suburban Christian is a book that comes out of the Emergent church tradition within evangelicalism. This particular stream of thought seeks to integrate ancient Celtic prayers (p. 199), ancient spiritual disciplines (p. 138), and emergent thinkers such as Doug Pagitt (p. 142) into modern Christianity. Using reflection on the author's background as a life-long suburbanite and his emergent tradition, he seeks to prove that Christians can live faithfully in suburbia (p. 13). This book is appropriate for any adult American who has wondered how to contextualize their faith in an environment that it often driven by consumerism, secularism, and consumption.

In seeking to prove that Christians can live faithfully in suburbia, the author analyzes the history and nature of the relationship between the city and suburbia. After discussing the culture of suburbia, the author gives several practical suggestions for Christians to live faithfully. He suggests that Christians create a parish mentality wherein they attempt to work, live, and go to church in one community. Other suggestions include focusing on creativity, simplicity, and generosity (p. 87).

While the book is filled with great cultural analysis and practical tips, important areas lack biblical support. For example, the discussion on fasting is not based on any Scripture (p. 86). The book contains endnotes and a topical index but lacks a scripture index.

David H. Wenkel

Learning to pray through the Psalms / James W. Sire. LCCN 2005018632. Downers Grove, Ill. : InterVarsity Press, 2005.

PAP, 0830833323, list price: \$15.00.

223/.2/0071. Bible. O.T. Psalms--Devotional use; Bible. O.T. Psalms--Prayers; Prayer--Christianity. 227 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

The enduring quality of the Old Testament Psalms is shown in its ability to simultaneously relate to a particular situation, place and time, as well as express the consistency of human nature throughout the ages. *Learning to Pray Through the Psalms* by James W. Sire is an in-depth guide to ten of the Psalms on subjects ranging from worship to fear to anger to joy. Sire's premise is that prayer is a disciplined activity that involves both learning and practice. He advises the reader to utilize the information as a starting point, rather than a how-to and emphasizes the need for personal, interactive discussions with God. Chapters consist of a brief introduction to a specific Psalm; the Psalm reading in the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible; a breakdown of the Psalm into workable segments; a study of structure from rational, emotional and contextual perspectives; and suggestions and questions for use in both individual devotionals and small group studies.

Information is, at times, repetitive, but the author's heartfelt concern for the spiritual welfare of his fellow Christians is endearing. Writing style combines

scholarly research with years of self-study. Includes a helpful guide for small group leaders and bibliography. James W. Sire, PhD. is a former editor of InterVarsity Press, speaker, and writer of several books, including *A Little Primer on Humble Apologetics* (IVP, 2006), *Habits of the Mind* (IVP, 2000) about training to be a Christian intellect, and *Jesus the Reason* (IVP, 2003) a Bible study. Recommended as an intermediate to advanced level devotional or small group study guide.

Kim Harris

Reading the sermon on the mount : character formation and decision making in Matthew 5-7 / Charles H. Talbert. LCCN 2006042874. Grand Rapids : Baker Academic, 2006.

PAP, 080103163X, list price: \$17.99.

226.9/06. Sermon on the mount--Criticism, interpretation, etc. 181 p. ; 23 cm.

Adult. Rating : 3.

The extended title clearly identifies that this book intends to present a fresh reading of the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7 with a two-fold emphasis. The primary thesis is that the sermon is a catalyst for character formation and the secondary thesis is that it contributes to decision making when understood in context (29). These theses are supported by an examination of the sermon itself in its historical context as well as in its literary context in the gospel.

The author approaches the Bible from a canonical perspective. Talbert focuses his energies on the text and in doing so he gives many beneficial insights into the text of Matthew. Several critical issues for interpreting the Sermon on the Mount are engaged. In many interpretive issues Talbert takes a conservative position. For example, he finds that the sermon contains Christology (67) and he understands

Jesus' statement about the fulfillment of the law to mean that Jesus' ethic is a recovery of the original Old Testament ethic (61). He also points to Matthew's unity with the rest of the New Testament with regards to adultery (78).

Although the preface states that this monograph is intended to be for both generalists and specialists, it really is for scholars who have some training in biblical studies. Many parts of this book have the feel of a commentary. Furthermore, this book also would have benefited from interaction with more evangelicals. Positively, the author has palatable chapters in addition to an index of modern authors, of scripture and other ancient sources, as well as a bibliography and footnotes. Use of the Koine Greek language is transliterated.

David H. Wenkel

Can you believe in God and evolution? : a guide for the perplexed / Ted Peters and Martinez Hewlett. LCCN 2006003169. Nashville : Abingdon Press, 2006.

PAP, 0687335515, list price: \$12.00.

231.7/652. Religion and science; Bible and evolution; Creationism; Evolution (Biology)--Religious aspects--Christianity; Evolution--Religious aspects--Christianity. xi, 98 p. : ill. ; 23 cm.

Adult. Rating : 3.

Can You Believe in God and Evolution? by Ted Peters and Martinez Hewlett gives an brief overview of the evolution and creation debate by summarizing various beliefs. The authors briefly examine the writings and ideas of Charles Darwin and those that have come after him on all sides of the debate including sociobiologist Edward O. Wilson, atheist Richard Dawkins, a variety of Creationists like Henry Morris, Ken Ham, and Hugh Ross, and Intelligent Design proponents Michael

Behe and William Dembski. They write that our children should be taught the best that science has to offer while leaving out atheistic philosophy and interpretation. This leaves us with theistic evolution as the best alternative, so the answer is yes, you can believe in God and evolution. The authors end with a hopeful interpretation of the creation story in Genesis.

Can You Believe in God and Evolution serves as an introductory handbook on this topic. This brief treatment covers several important bases, but each topic is barely touched upon. In fact this book is an abridgment of their earlier work called *Evolution from Creation to New Creation* (Abingdon Press, 2003). At best, this book could be used as a supplement to the authors' previous book or to supplement other strong books on the topic like Kenneth R. Miller's *Finding Darwin's God* (Cliff Street Books, 1999) and Darrel R. Falk's *Coming to Peace With Science* (InterVarsity Press, 2004). This book is part of a recent and growing trend of books being published, by several big name publishers, about theistic evolution.

David Rainey

How long, O Lord? : reflections on suffering and evil / D.A. Carson. 2nd ed LCCN 2006010847. Grand Rapids : Baker Academic, 2006.

PAP, 0801031257, 9780801031250, list price: \$22.99.

231/.8. Good and evil; Theodicy; Suffering--Religious aspects--Christianity. 240 p. ; 23 cm.

Adult (HS). Rating : 5.

One of eminent author, researcher, evangelist, and professor D.A. Carson's strengths is thinking rigorously but explaining lucidly and simply. *In How Long, O Lord? : Reflections on Suffering and Evil*, Carson applies those gifts to

the very real question of pain. He orients his readers scripturally, then explains some “false steps” some have taken in coping with suffering and evil.

Then like his conservative theological forebears Carson explains the sinfulness of sin. It's not Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People? but Why Do Good and Bad Things Happen to Pervasively Sinful People? He thinks helpfully through how the Bible applies to war, natural disaster, poverty (he breaks this down into kinds), and social evils. He discusses why the people of God suffer; why the God of the Bible would sanction curses, holy wars, and Hell; and why God sends illness and death.

Carson does not necessarily recommend his book to people who are already suffering; he offers it as a biblical foundation for those who may suffer—and that includes all believers. Carson does not pretend to have all the answers to God's mysterious providence. But he does carefully mine the clearest source of answers God has given his children.

Study questions follow each relatively brief chapter, and an appendix on AIDS rounds out the volume. Carson's book has reached a second, updated edition (illustrations have been contemporized, as has the Bible translation the book uses) not merely because he is one of the most respected theologians and scholars in evangelicalism but because his book is biblical and helpful.

Mark Ward

Building belief : constructing faith from the ground up / Chad V. Meister. LCCN 2006005989. Grand Rapids : Baker Books, 2006.

PAP, 0801065690, list price: \$14.99.
239. Apologetics. 227 p. : ill. ; 23 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

Building Belief by Chad Meister covers a full range of issues that one might encounter while investigating the claims of Christianity. The problem of evil, world religion, the rules of logic, science and faith, and the reliability of the Bible are some of the topics covered in this book. What distinguishes *Building Belief* from other books on the topic is what the author calls the Apologetics Pyramid. The Pyramid starts with three broad topics: truth, worldviews, and theism. Once Meister deals with these foundational issues, he moves on to discuss three more focused topics: revelation, the resurrection of Christ, and the Gospel. The idea is that a person cannot be expected to swallow the Gospel (at the top of the pyramid) before they even have a clear concept of truth (at the base of the pyramid).

This may not be recreational reading, but the writing style is accessible. The charts are helpful, and the book is well documented with 20 pages of notes. *Building Belief* would serve as a great handbook or even a course for apologetics. Questions for discussion and annotated reading lists are placed at the end of each chapter. Chad Meister is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Bethel College in Indiana.

David Rainey

Why Mike's not a Christian / Ben Young. LCCN 2006002116. Eugene, Ore. : Harvest House, 2006.

PAP, 0736918655, list price: \$10.99.
239. Apologetics. 141 p. ; 21 cm.
Adult (HS). Rating : 4.

Ben Young's book, *Why Mike's Not a Christian*, begins with a dialogue between two men, Josh and Mike. It concludes with a conversation that reveals that Josh has gained a better

handle on what he believes and is able to represent Christ more accurately in the sharing of his faith. The meat of the book takes readers through seven common challenges to belief such as: the Bible is full of myths, the existence of evil and suffering, and Jesus was just a good man. For each challenge, the author offers reasonable responses that any Christian could give in a discussion or conversation.

Why Mike's Not a Christian is filled with personal anecdotes as well as Scriptural references and apologetics. Mostly written in an easy to read manner, Young does venture into some rather difficult scientific explanations particularly in his discussion of evolution. But in general his writing is very user-friendly and up-to-date and would definitely appeal to high school students as well as adults.

Cecil Carey

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Bulletproof / Chuck Holton. LCCN 2004029217. Sisters, Ore. : Multnomah, 2005.

PAP, 1590523989, list price: \$11.99.
248.4. Miracles; Christian life; Providence and government of God. 203 p. ; 21 cm.
Adult (HS). Rating : *5.

Ex-Army Ranger Chuck Holton tells us that we are bulletproof until our mission in life is complete; therefore, we need not shrink back from fear or adversity. Part 1 of *Bulletproof* is full of real-life military, missionary, and other stories designed to show us that our lives and our children's lives are in God's capable hands. Holton explains that we should fear God alone, as this leads to obedience, wisdom, and true safety. Part 2 includes more stories and uses the New Testament book of 2 Timothy as a template to show us how to live life with

power, love and self-discipline, for these are the biblical tools for overcoming fear.

Bulletproof has a powerful, relevant, and insightful message. His explanation of true safety is invaluable. The stories are current and do a good job of demonstrating Holton's point that our confidence—on the battlefield or in our living room—is found in God. A 26 page personal or group study guide is included at the back of the book. Recommended for all public libraries, church libraries, and high school libraries.

David Rainey

Courageous parenting / Jack and Deb Graham. LCCN 2006014223. Wheaton, Ill. : Crossway Books, 2006.

HBB, 1581347448, list price: \$17.99.

248.8/45. Child rearing--Religious aspects--Christianity; Parenting--Religious aspects--Christianity. 175 p. ; 24 cm.

Adult. Rating : 3.

How do you raise a child to be a well-rounded adult? How do you, as a parent, keep from making mistakes? More importantly, how do you train your child to love God? These are a few of the questions asked and answered in *Courageous Parenting*.

Writing in a simple, direct, and encouraging style, Jack and Deb Graham use their own experiences in raising three children over thirty years as the basis for their book, but also make sure to give equal time to what the Bible says about parenting and child-rearing. (Jack Graham, currently pastor of the Prestonwood Baptist Church in Texas, served two terms as president of the Southern Baptist Convention). The book, in fact, stresses that without a stable, God-centered marriage, raising a stable family is impossible.

Courageous Parenting contains two main sections, A Biblical Plan for the Family, and Putting the Plan to Work. A third section includes personal parenting reflections from Deb Graham. There are chapters on the special roles of husbands/fathers and of wives/mothers, as well as one on the preciousness of children. The need for integrity, honesty, consistency, and purity in both parent and child is stressed, as are ways to pass on these qualities to one's children. Problems that parents face in modern society's "spiritual fire zone" are also covered.

While there may not be anything new here, *Courageous Parenting* is packed with parenting and marriage-building tips, and its style (short chunks of text broken up by section headings such as "Teach Your Children the Value of Being Responsible People" or "Express Your Love by Encouraging Your Children") make it especially easy to read and understand. Both new and old parents should find plenty of value.

Rosemarie DiCristo

Engaging the soul of youth culture : bridging teen worldviews and Christian truth / Walt Mueller. LCCN 2005028721. Downers Grove, Ill. : InterVarsity Press, 2006.

PAP, 0830833374, list price: \$17.00.

259/.23. Parent and teenager--Religious aspects--Christianity; Popular culture--Religious aspects--Christianity; Christian teenagers--Religious life. 239 p. : ill. ; 24 cm.

Adult. Rating : 5.

"Who are our youth listening to?" is underlying question that resonates throughout Walt Mueller's *Engaging the Soul of Youth Culture*. The book is targeted at adults, and it is particularly aimed those in youth ministry. Yet, in some way or form all adults interact with teens at some level. Mueller says

that all adults should be concerned; the gap is widening between youth and adults more and more in contemporary times, especially when it comes to presenting the gospel to today's youth. Mueller's book addresses how to effectively minister to today's youth, likening the task to that of a missionary preparing to go to a foreign country. Sometimes this preparation takes years as the missionary familiarizes himself or herself with that culture. Mueller provides a well-researched, engaging resource on how adults can better reach or engage the spiritual concerns of today's youth. Citing numerous examples, both personal and expert, he provides a thought-provoking game plan of reaching out to our youth.

Mueller's book resonates with authority. He speaks as one who is dedicated to his chosen subject. Today's youth is truly his mission field and he has an informative website that complements the text. There are numerous references in the bibliography and a well-defined index. Valid and important to anyone concerned with the spiritual well-being of today's youth, Mueller's book is an important read.

Pam Webb

Resting place : a personal guide to spiritual retreats / Jane Rubietta. LCCN 2005021332. Downers Grove, Ill. : InterVarsity Press, 2006.

PAP, 0830833366, list price: \$13.00.

269/.6. Spiritual life--Christianity; spirituality; Spiritual retreats. 204 p. ; 21 cm.

Adult. Rating : 3.

Jane Rubietta's *Resting Place* presents twelve retreat experiences for those who are seeking some personal time with God. It allows flexibility in the time allowed for each experience, but provides structure through the key elements of each experience. Each

chapter for a retreat experience begins with an exposition about the topic, followed by the tools used to delve deeper into the experience through reflection, meditation on scripture, journaling, prayer, and others.

The book's strength is the variety of tools used to supplement the retreat experience. Readers can choose from one or more of the tools to enrich the experience without being forced to work through all of them to derive benefits. The exercises aren't demanding and don't require in-depth introspection. The reader can allocate as little or as much time as their situation warrants to the retreat. Overall, readers who are new to the spiritual retreat experience may find this book especially helpful. The book is designed for an individual or small group retreat.

Shirley Copeland

The autobiography of Charles G. Finney : the life story of America's greatest evangelist—in his own words / condensed and edited by Helen Wessel. (Annie's people.) LCCN 2006003467. Minneapolis : Bethany House, 2006.

PAP, 0764201565, list price: \$14.99.

285.8092 or B. Finney, Charles Grandison, 1792-1875.; Evangelists--United States--Biography; Clergy--United States--Biography; Congregational churches--Clergy--Biography. 230 p. ; 22 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

If anyone has ever doubted that prayer and revival can cause a seismic shift in one's relationship with Christ, then this book will cause a conversion. Using Finney's very own words, the reader is taken back to the 17th century and participates in the "Great Awakening" that took place in America, thanks largely to Charles Finney and his powerful and persuasive preaching.

As the book begins, one is drawn to the emotional and gut-wrenching pursuit of salvation. Finney records in the book that it was not until he discovered that salvation only comes from God and not by man's works that he experienced a radical peace and comfort as he gave himself to the Lord and his work.

It is after this conversion experience that Finney begins to embark on an evangelistic crusade that is wrapped in prayer. It is through these "revival prayer" meetings that Finney unashamedly brings people to a saving knowledge of Christ.

The life of Charles Finney has encouraged me in my ministry. From the very first day that Finney was converted, he was dedicated to allowing the Holy Spirit to work through him in sharing the Good News about Christ; it is my heart's desire to do the same. Filled with emotion and an intense devotion to God, Finney's life sounds a "wake up call" to all Christians, encouraging them to reach all people for Christ.

Chris Carroll

Thematic guide to young adult literature / Alice Trupe. LCCN 2006006174. Westport, Conn. : Greenwood Press, 2006.

HBB,0 313332347, list price: \$65.00.

813.009/928. Young adult literature--Bibliography; Teenagers in literature--Bibliography; Teenagers--Books and reading--United States; Young adult fiction, American--Themes, motives; Young adult fiction, American--History and criticism. viii, 259 ; 26 cm.

Adult. Rating : 4.

The *Thematic Guide to Young Adult Literature* by Alice Trupe is a subject-based critical analysis of some of the most highly acclaimed classic and contemporary young adult fiction written from the late 1950s through 2004. Thirty-two chapters, each

highlighting different topics, are organized alphabetically, with contents ranging from addiction to survival; disabilities to physical and sexual abuse; and homosexuality to religion. Each chapter talks about why subject matter continues to appeal to teen audiences, summarizes three to eight novels and ends with a list of additional recommendations. Designed as an introduction to the genre, synopses compare and contrast style, imagery and other key focal points of more than 150 young adult novels. Titles, both those reviewed and those listed as "Additional Reading Recommendations," can be found on most American Library Association (ALA) teen reading lists, as well as in most school and public libraries. Sample of authors includes such classics as Richard Peck, Robert Cormier, and S. E. Hinton and contemporaries like Francesca Lia Block, Orson Scott Card, and Karen Hesse.

Trupe maintains that the guide targets ages 12-17; however, some subject matter may be geared to a more mature audience. Although no discussion questions are inserted, issues have been chosen to facilitate group discussions. A selected bibliography of secondary sources, an appendix of additional themes, and an index are included. Publisher, Greenwood Press, is well-known for its quality educational publications with sturdy bindings. Recommended as a young adult literature reference and collection development tool for teachers and homeschoolers new to teen literature, as well as both school and public libraries.

Kim Harris

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