ED 430 212	CS 013 549
AUTHOR	Jones, Glenowyn
TITLE	What's New in Chapter Books.
PUB DATE	1999-03-00
NOTE	13p.; Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Michigan Reading Association (43rd, Grand Rapids, MI, March 13-16,
	1999).
PUB TYPE	Guides - Classroom - Teacher (052) Reference Materials - Bibliographies (131) Speeches/Meeting Papers (150)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	*Adolescent Literature; Book Reviews; *Childrens Literature;
	Elementary Secondary Education; *Readability; Reading Interests; *Selection Tools
IDENTIFIERS	Trade Books

ABSTRACT

Listing 81 chapter books for children published between 1996-1999, this annotated bibliography gives interest level ratings, reading level ratings, a brief summary, and theme assignments. The 13 theme categories listed in alphabetical order include Adventure-Survival, Autobiography-Biography, Death, Divorce, Good Reading, Handicaps, Historical Fiction, Multi-Cultural, Mysteries, Non-Fiction, Professional, Science Fiction, and Sports. Thirty-three suggestions for teaching young adult literature are attached along with a list of 12 questions to be answered when reviewing a book. (SC)

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What's New in Chapter Books

by Glenowyn Jones

Published:

1999-03

CS 013 549

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TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

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PRESENTATION GIVEN AT MICHIGAN READING ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

I was excited about coming here to share with you some of the books that I have enjoyed reading this winter. I have the pleasure of reading all of the Chapter books that come into the store and assigning themes to them. When a teacher needs a book on a certain topic the list can be brought up on the computer. This is great help to teachers.

Before I share my bibliography with you. I need to explain a few things. First, for each book, I listed a few of the themes where I thought this book might be used. However, I'm sure that you will find others as you read the book. Then I gave the interest level (IL) and reading level (RL) if the company has provided it. If the comment says abt. a certain grade or reading level, I provided it. I used the Smog Readability formula as this one is fast and easy and as reliable as any since all readability formulas are just indications.

Occasionally I have listed a book with an earlier copyright date. This is because I thought that the book was so interesting that children would enjoy it and maybe you had missed it.

CHAPTER BOOK LIST MICHIGAN READING ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

MARCH, 1999

Glenowyn Jones, Sales/Reading Consultant Keith's Distributors Flint Michigan

ADVENTURE--SURVIVAL

BRIAN'S RETURN	Gary Paulsen	1999
After having survived alone in th	e wilderness, Brian finds that he	can no longer live
in the city but must return to the		(Self-reliance,
survival, wilderness) IL: grade 5 and	-	
FROZEN STIFF	Sherry Shahan	1998
Cousins Cody and Derek take a l	cayaking trip in Alaska and find	themselves
battling the raw elements of an u	ntamed wilderness. (Alaska, surviv	val, adventure,
camping) IL: 9-12 years		
HURRICANE RESCUE	Susan Saunders	1998
Three children brave the hurrican	e to rescue their dog. They fina	ally make it to the
lighthouse and find themselves in		•
NINE MAN TREE	Robert Newton Peck	1998
Yule assumes the responsibility	of protecting his family from a h	orror stalking the
swamplands. (Everglades, family, h	unting, survival) RL: abt grade 6, II	L: grade 5 and up
VOLCANO DISASTER	Peg Kehret	1998
An "Instant Commuter" transpor	ts 12 year-old Warren back in ti	me to Mount St.
Helen as it erupts. (Science, time tro	avel, Washington, volcanoes, disaster	s) RL: abt grade 5
AUTOBIOGR	APHYBIOGRAPHY	

MARY ON HORSEBACK	Rosemary Wells	1998
Mary is the first nurse to go into		o give medical
assistance to the isolated familie	es. (Pioneer)	
OUT OF DARKNESS	Russell Freedman	1997
Louis Braille was upset because	e he could not read. He develo	ped the Braille
system of reading for the blind.	(Handicapped, blind, biography)	IL: grade 5-YA
KNOTS IN MY YO-YO STRING Autobiography	Jerry Spinelli	1998

DEATH

SORT OF FOREVERSally Warner1998Twelve year old Cady and Nana explore the strengths of their special friendship as
they cope with Nana's cancer. (Best friends, cancer, death) RL: abt grade 61998



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broken bone or been in the hospital. (Need to belong) IL: 7-10 years **APPLE ISLAND** 1998 **Douglas** Evans Or 'The Truth About Teachers'. Bradley finds a book about teachers that says that good teachers come from Apple Island, the crabby ones are still there. His teacher kidnaps her students and takes them to Apple Island. Bradley must save them. No one listens to the principal. Ink river, Chalk mountain etc. (Humor) Jamie Gilson 1998 **BUG IN A RUG** Seven year old Richard is self conscious about wearing a pair of purple pants to school. His uncle sent them to him. Now he is even more worried when his uncle is going to visit his school. (School, worms, family) IL: 7-10 years **GIRLS REVENGE, THE** Phyllis Reynolds Naylor 1998 As Christmas approaches, Caroline and her sisters continues their feud with the Hatford brothers by asking Wally to be Caroline's partner for a special project. *IL:* 8-10 years.

ANNIE BANANIE AND THE PAIN SISTERS Leah Komaiko Libby must come up with a plan to join the Pain Club, since she has never had a

with the gossip in the small town and the changes in her life, including her father's remarriage. (Stepmother, remarriage, California) IL: 8-12 years **DANNY'S DESERT RATS** Phyllis Rednolds Naylor 1998 Danny and his friends, the Desert Rats, live in a complex where no pets are allowed. The Rats must find a way to keep a cat who has returned to a boy after having been given away. (Friendship, cats, mystery, divorce) IL: 8-12 years

GOOD READING

1998 AMBER BROWN IS FEELING BLUE Paula Danziger Amber's parents are divorced and she must decide with which parent to spend RL: abt grade 4 IL: 9-12 years Thanksgiving. (Divorce, family, friendship) YEAR OF THE SAWDUST MAN 1998 A. LaFave In 1934, when her mother leaves her and her father, 11 year old Nissa tries to cope

in their affection for a stray dog. (Dogs, death, grief) IL: 8-12 years WHEN SHE WAS GOOD Norma Mazer

The death of her abusive, manipulative sister causes seventeen year old Em to relive their life together. (Young adult, self esteem, handicap) RL: abt grade 5, IL: YA

DIVORCE

UNTIL ANGELS CLOSE MY EYES

WANDER

Lurlene McDaniel Leah has had cancer. Now her stepfather is dying with cancer. She finds comfort in the first real family she has ever known, an Amish family. (Friendship, cancer, Amish, stepparent, death) IL: YA

Susan Hart Linguist

1998 Grieving for their dead mother, 12 year old James and his sister Sary find healing

1998

LIZZIE LOGAN SECOND BANANA	Eileen Spinelli	1998
Lizzie and her friend try to win a co	ntest so that her friend can use the mo	oney to
buy a telescope. Lizzie had wished f	for a father and now her mother has re-	emarried.
But her security does not last when s	she finds out that her mother is going	to have a
baby. (Friendship, families, stepfathe	r) IL: 7-10 years	
LONG WAY TO CHICAGO, A	Richard Peck	1998
A boy tells of his annual trips to visit	his aunt in Illinois during the Great	
Depression (Grandmother, humorous, s	siblings. Illinois) RL: abt grade 5, IL:9-12	years
LOSERS, INC.	Claudia Mills	1997
After twelve year old Ethan meets a	beautiful student teacher, he realizes	that he
no longer wants to be a loser. (Friend	dship, brothers, self esteem) IL: 9-12 years	
MAZE(THE)	Will Hobbs	1998
	letention facility near Las Vegas and t	
Utah where he meets a bird biologist	t working on a project to reintroduce	condors.
(Runaways, birds, wildlife conservation, U	Itah) IL: YA, RL: abt grade 8	
OUTRAGEOUSLY ALICE	Phillis Reynolds Naylor	1997
-	t also safe and secure. She colors he	r hair
green, etc. (School, self esteem, belongin		
REVENGE OF THE SUBSTITUTE TEA		1998
8	ners out, the students finally meet their	r match.
(School, humorous)		
SEARCHING FOR DAVID'S HEART		1998
-	ter a fight, she runs off, he chases her	
	t is donated. She must find the one wh	10
has his heart. (Christmas, family, death		
SLAVE DAY	Rob Thomas	1997
-	school 'slave day' auction as a fund	
	y to rethink their approaches to life. (S	school,
race relations) IL: YA 6TH GRADE NICKNAME GAME, THI	Cordon Kormon	1998
•	for their school friends while getting	
to a new teacher who has been a foo		aujusieu
RL: abt grade 6, IL: 8-12 years	Stuail Coach. (School, humorous)	
ZEL	Donna Jo Napoli	1996
A longer version of the fairy tale Ra	•	1770
Though version of the fairy tale fai		
на	NDICAPS	
	Indical S	
GAPS IN STONE WALLS	John Neufeld	1996
	cused of killing a man. She tries to ru	
It has a surprise ending. (Mystery, har	_	5

MARY MELAN AWAKEJennifer Armstrong1998A lonely young Irish girl whose father has returned to Ireland and whose brother
was killed in the Civil War get a job working for a naturalist and is treated like a
part of the family. Sequel to "Dreams of Mairhe Mehan". (Handicapped, Irish-Amer.)



SILENT SPILLBILLS, THE	Tor Seidler	1998
Katerina, who has a stuttering prol	olem, works to save a species of bi	rds which she
has named Spillbills. Her grandfat	· · ·	Ecology,
grandfather, handicapped, birds) IL: 10	years-up	
WILD KID	Harry Mazer	1998
A mildly retarded boy runs away from	n home and is kidnapped by a an o	lder boy who
lives in the woods. (Handicap, kidne	apping, runaway, feral children)	-
HISTO	RICAL FICTION	
BLACK HORSES FOR THE KING	Anne McCaffrey	1998
Gladden, a Roman Celt, escaped fr	om his uncle and assists in bringing	g horses from
Egypt to England to aid in fighting	the Saxons. He makes the first ho	orse shoe.
Fiction based on fact. (England, Ki		
CIRCLE OF LOVE	Joan Lowery Nixon	1998
Mary Kelly one of the Orphan Trai	n girls is asked to go to new York	to return a
boy . While there, she is asked to be	ring back 30 children to be placed	in homes.
(Families, historical fiction, sisters, pion	neer) Sequel to A Family Apart IL:5-8 g	grade
DAVID'S SEARCH	Joan Lowery Nixon	1998
David, an Orphan Train rider, settl	es with a strict family. His best fri	end is an
ex-slave who is threatened by the I	Ku Klux Klan. (Pioneer, slavery) IL: I	10 year and up
DEAR AMERICA SERIES	Various authors	1998
THE JOURNAL OF JAMES EI	OMOND PEASE (Civil War)	
LINE IN THE SAND (Alamo)	(War in Texas)	
PICTURE OF FREEDOM (Slav	e girl) (Slavery)	
DEAR AUSTIN	Elvira Woodruff	
Letters written by a young boy wh	ose brother, Austin, has gone wes	t on a wagon
train. IL: ages 8-12		
FAREWELL TO THE ISLAND	Gloria Whelan	1998
In 1816, Mary decides to visit her	married sister in England and expe	riences life
away from the island, her father an	d White Hawk (Michigan author, En	gland,
Michigan) Sequel to Once On Th	• -	
GARDEN, THE	Carol Matas	1998
Ruth, a survivor of a concentration	• <i>T</i>	
escalating between the Arabs and t		
is forced to fight and/or kill in defe	-	
MOSES IN EGYPT	Lynne Reid Banks	1998
To save her son from Pharaoh, a n		
adrift on the Nile. The Queen raise		
he leads the Hebrew slaves to free		
NORTH BY NIGHT	Katherine Ayres	1998
The journal of a 16 year old girl w		
underground railroad. (Slavery, Ohi	о) IL: 10 yea r -и р	

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OUT OF THE DUST	Karen Hesse	1997	
An accident leaves Billie Jo, scar	red inside and out. Her mother	is gone and	
Father can not talk about it. Dust storms are devastating the family farm. The			
one thing that might make her fee	el betterplaying the piano- is ir	npossible with her	
wounded hands. (Depression, histor	y, plains states) RL: grade 6, IL: age	es 11-13	
SOLDIER'S HEART	Gary Paulsen	1998	
Eager to enlist, 15 year old Charl the physical and mental anguish of			
WISH ME LUCK	James Heneghan	1997	
James wishes that the war would when the town is bombed, he is p	-		
ship is bombed and many are lost	-	. On the way the	
MULT	I-CULTURAL		
ANTHONY'S BIG SURPRISE	Wade Hudson	1998	
Anthony receives gifts from an u	nknown person. He later finds	they are from his	
father. He has always been told the (African-American)	hat his father died before he wa	is born.	
BREATH OF THE DRAGON	Gail Giles	1997	
After Malila's father is killed, her	mother takes her to her grandn	nother's home and	
leaves for America. Malila hears Years later, she also comes to Ar			
BURNING UP	Caroline Cooney	1999	
Macey researches the history of a	2	ome. No one will	
answer her questions. After find			
the past but she is responsible for IL: 12 years and up	the present. (Segregation, African	n-American, death)	
CASE OF THE LION'S DANCE	Laurence Yep	1998	
When \$2000 is stolen during the	opening of a restaurant, Lily an	d her aunt, a	
Chinese American movie star, se	arch for the thief throughout Sa	n Francisco's	
China Town. (Chinese-American,			
FOLLOW THE LEADER	Vicki Winslow	1997	
When Amanda's school is being			
grade. After all it's 1971, and th		the first man on	
the moon <i>(Integration, schools)</i> .	RL: grade 5. IL: ages 8-12		
HAWK MOON	Rob MacGregor	1998	
Will, a Hopi Indian, breaks up w When blood is found on his knit			
Colorado) IL: YA			
NO PLACE	Kay Haugaard	1998	
Having no place to play in an inn			
Arturo and his 6th grade class ra			
about hard work, creativity and t	eamwork. (Cities, Mexican-Americ	cans) RL abt grade 5	



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	Clyde Robert Bulla is about to lose his home. After he to les to paint his story on the house hop	
it will save it. <i>IL: grades 2-4</i> PLACE IN THE SUN, A When Senmut's sculpting chisel slips priests exile him to a lifetime of hard and the heat, he turns to the one thin	Jill Rubalcaba s and accidentally kills a sacred dove, l labor in a gold mine. To endure bruta g he loves most-his sculpture. (Art, Eg	1997 Egyptian I guards
survival) ROBBER AND ME, THE	Josef Holub	1997
Boniface, an orphan, is left alone in a He awakens in his uncle's house. Ma a black hat. (Translated into English in SOFT RAIN The story of the Trail of Tears. STONE IN WATER Italian boys were taken to Germany boy's survival and escape. His frien (Friendship, WW2, historical fiction, Germ WATER BUFFALO DAYS The author describes his close relation part of his family when he was grow years	a forest. A man in a black hat rescues any robberies have been committed by 1997) <i>RL: grade 5.0, IL: ages 10-up.</i> Cornelia Cornelissen <i>(American Indian, history) IL: 8-12 years</i> Donna Napali to work during WW2. The story tells ad, a Jew, was killed. <i>(American Indian, history) RL: abt. grade 7</i> Huynh Quang Nhuong onship with two water buffaloes that wing up. <i>(Vietnam, Social life and customs)</i>	him. a man in 1998 1998 of one 1997 were
	Mildred Taylor mily share their well water with both cans in an atmosphere of potential rac	
MYST	FERIES	
	CSS Ann Rinaldi an orphan, lives with an uncle who sho dies for medical research. <i>(Physicians,</i>	1997 e
DEATH'S DOOR A Herculeah Jones mystery Super-	Betsy Byars -sleuth Herculeah's investigation of th ads them to a mystery bookstore name	
FIND A STRANGER, SAY GOODBYE Natalie needs to know who her moth will lead to the identity of her mothe	her is. She begins a journey that she h r. <i>IL: JH-YA</i>	-
ex-stepmother, will come back for it	Caroline Cooney s, she is astounded. She thinks that D . But she soon realizes that she is wro ? And why is it here with her? <i>IL: JH-</i>	ng.



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KIDNAPPERS	Willo Davis Roberts	1998
No one believes eleven year old	Joey, who has a reputation for tellin	ng tall tales
when he claims to have witnesse	d the kidnapping of the class bully of	outside their
expensive private school. (Bullie	s, mystery, New York, survival) IL: 8-12	years
PAWNS	Willo Davis Roberts	1998
A pregnant woman arrives at Ma	amie's door. She claims to be Mami	ie's son's wife
Her son has been killed in an air IL: abt grade 6-up	plane crash just 2 weeks before. (De	eath , orphans)
SECRETS AT HIDDEN VALLEY	Willo Davis Roberts	1998
After the death of her father, Ste	effi lives with her disagreeable grand	lfather in a
trailer part where everyone seem <i>IL: 10-14 years</i>	as to have a secret. (Death, grandfath)	er)
SPARROWS IN THE SCULLERY	Barbara Brooks Wallace	1999
When Colley is abducted, he is t	aken to the dreadful Broggin home	for Boys.
With the help of his new friends,	he learns to survive. IL: ages 8-12	
TEACHER'S PET	Richie Cusick	1998
Kate likes a little thrill and scare	. She gets to go to a week-long wr	iting
conference which turns out to be	e more than she bargained for. A gl	love with a
hand still in it is only one of the	many scares she has. IL: JH-AD	
TREASURE OF BESSLEDORF HIL		1997
	h for buried treasure around Bessle	dorf Hill and
-	was buried by Peg Leg, a pirate.	
(Friendship, mystery) IL: 8-12 years		
WANTED	Caroline Cooney	1997
	someone breaking into the house.	
· · · ·	s that her father has been found dea	d in the house
She is the only suspect. (Cooney i	is a good mystery writer.) IL: YA	
NO	N-FICTION	
COULD IT BE TRUE	Allan Zullo	1998
True stories of chance of fate. E	Ex: Two girls in a hospital find that	they are
twins. (True short stories, science)	IL: JH-YA	
DIGGER	Jerry Stanley	1997
	ere kidnapped and sold as slaves by lissions. (American Indians, California,	-

exploration) IL: JH-YA		
IN THE HEART OF THE QUAKE	David Levithan	1998
IN THE EYE OF THE TORNADO	David Levithan	1998
Brothers have a special feeling for a	disaster and must try to save the people	e.
(Weather, science, brothers, disasters)		
SEPARATE BUT NOT EQUAL	Jim Haskns	1998
Integration of schools. IL: YA		



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WITNESSES TO WAR Michael Leapman 1998 Eight true stories of Jewish children during WW2 in Germany who suffered Nazi persecution. (Germany, WW2, Holocaust, Jewish, survival) IL: YA

PROFESSIONAL

WHAT A NOVEL IDEA!Katherine Wiesolek Kuta1997Contains 60 projects and activities for teaching Young Adult literature starting
with 6th grade. Both suggestions and work sheets are given with the author's
permission to reproduce for class use.1997

SCIENCE FICTION

AMONG THE HIDDEN Margaret Peterson Haddix 1998 In the future, when parents are only allowed to have two children, Luke, a third child in the family, becomes a shadow child and must live his life in hiding. (Families, science fiction) IL: grade 6-up **ORPHAN OF ELLIS ISLAND** Woodruff 1998 During a school trip to Ellis Island, Dominis, a ten year old foster child travels back in time to 1908 Italy and accompanies two young emigrants to America. (Historical fiction, orphan, time travel, Italy) IL: abt 7-8 grades **RUNNING OUT OF TIME** Margaret Peterson Haddix 1997 Jessie lives in a frontier village in 1850, or so she thinks. When diphtheria strikes the village children, Jesse's mother reveals a shocking secret-it's actually 1996.

Jessie must go to the outside world to obtain medicine to save the children. (Time travel) RL: grade 6, IL: gds 3-6

SPORTS

OFF THE RIM	Fred Bowen	1998
Unhappy with his inability to scor takes lessons from his friend Gret		,
develops a good sense of teamwo	ork. (Basketball) RL: abt. grade 5	
RUNNING WILD	Thomas Dygard	1996
When Pete and his friends are bus Pete a deal: spend a night in jail of author include OUTSIDE SHOO TOURNAMENT UPSTART grade7	or join the football team. Other	books by this I, and

RL-Reading level

IL-Interest level

YA-Young Adult



SUGGESTIONS FOR TEACHING YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE

- 1. Compare a character to yourself or to the way we live today
- 2. Keep a diary for a character or write "Dear Ann Landers" letters
- 3. Write newspaper articles. Combine them to make a class newspaper
- 4. Write an additional chapter or a new ending for the story
- 5. Make bookmarks, posters, collages and book jackets
- 6. Write poetry such as diamente', couplets and cinquain
- 7. Write to the author
- 8. Write to a character in the book and have a partner representing the character answer or have two book characters write each other
- 9. Do live interviews or role play interviews with characters in the book
- 10. Write a favorite part into a play and act it out
- 11. Have a panel discussion about the book
- 12. Debate the pros and cons of a character's actions
- 13. Make a dictionary of new words and/or idioms
- 14. Make a bulletin board display
- 15. Write a prediction on how the story will end
- 16. Write ads, commercials or commercial jingles for the book
- 17. Develop a character map
- 18. Write about your favorite character and tell why
- 19. Make up a logo, a symbol for the book, a travel brochure for the setting, or a comic strip based on the book
- 20. Do a comparison/contrast chart of the characters
- 21. Develop a time line for the story
- 22. Develop vocabulary by having a "new word" day
- 23. Write a song by changing the words of a well known one
- 24. Do a television play or a radio broadcast of a chapter
- 25. Research what was happening in the world when the story takes place
- 26. Sell the book by developing a bumper sticker, a button or a T-shirt
- 27. Write a new ending for the book
- 28. Allow students to create their own test over the book
- 29. Write a "what if' situation for one of the characters
- 30. Write a portion of the story from a different point of view
- 32. Write how the story would change it took place 100 years ago
- 33. Read the story for the blind



QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED WHEN REVIEWING A BOOK

- 1. After reading the first chapter of the book, did you want to continue?
- 2. Is the plot easy to follow?
- 3. Would your children enjoy this book?
- 4. Is there objectionable language in the book?
- 5. Could this book be used in the classroom, if so, how could it be used? Is it a read-aloud? Will it be read just for fun?
- 6. Does the topic fit into the curriculum? Will it lend itself to activities that will help to meet the State Standards?
- 7. At which grade level is this book appropriate?
- 8. Using an educated guess, on what grade level is it written?
- 9. Does the interest level correspond with the interests of your students?
- 10 Is the book attractive? What about the size of the print?
- 11. Is the size of the book appropriate for your age children to handle?
- 12. In addition to many of the above, answer these question when selecting non-fiction. Is the information accurate?
 - Does the author have the background to write on this topic?
 - Does it make a distinction between fact and fiction?
 - Are there appropriate illustrations, charts and drawings?

If it's a biography, does it give both strengths and weaknesses of the character?

NEW BOOKS 1999 COPYRIGHT

AT HER MAJESTY'S REQUEST	Walter Dean Myers		
Themes: Africa, slavery, Great Britain, biography			
FRIENDS	Gloria Whelan		
Themes: Slavery, Michigan author, Michigan, Afro-American			
IN MY ENEMY'S HOUSE	Carol Matas		
Themes: Jews, Germany occupation of Holland, Hi	story		
WHEN THE SOLDIERS WERE GONE	Vera Propp		
Themes: Jews, Germany, WW 2, History			



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