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ABSTRACT

Intended to provide teachers with a list of recently published books recommended for children, this annotated booklist cites titles of children's trade books selected for their literary and artistic quality. The annotations in the booklist include a critical statement about each book as well as a brief description of the content, and--where appropriate--information about quality and composition of illustrations is also given. The 1,700 titles and annotations are divided into the following categories: (1) books for young children, (2) traditional literature, (3) modern fantasy, (4) historical fiction, (5) contemporary realistic fiction, (6) poetry, (7) language, (8) social studies, (9) biography, (10) sciences, (11) fine arts, (12) crafts and hobbies, (13) sports and games, (14) holidays, and (15) professional books. A directory of publishers, and author and title indexes are included. (HTH)

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# Adventuring with Books

ED 264 588

A Booklist for Pre-K-Grade 6

New Edition

Dianne L. Monson, Editor  
and the Committee on the Elementary School Booklist  
of the National Council of Teachers of English

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# Introduction

The 1985 edition of *Adventuring with Books* is a list of books selected for their merit and their potential for use in the classroom and at home. Approximately 1,700 new children's trade books appear on this annotated list.

Literary and artistic quality were the primary criteria for book selection applied by the current Committee on the Elementary School Booklist of the National Council of Teachers of English. Attention was also given to characteristics of the books that might influence their appeal for children. The committee has conscientiously attempted to ensure that books dealing with minorities are accurate and of good quality. As in the previous edition, quality books from the past have been recognized in lists appended to each major section of the booklist. Some of these books may be available only in library collections. Check *Books in Print* or contact the publisher.

Books considered for inclusion in this publication, approximately 7,000 titles, were submitted by publishers in response to a request from the NCTE Director of Publications. Books selected were published between 1981 and 1984, some of them for the first time in the United States during those years. A few reissues are included because they appear in a new format, with new illustrations, or with additional material. In recent years, many books have gone out of print not long after publication. Unfortunately, that may mean some books on this list will be available for a limited period.

The booklist shares with previous lists the purpose of providing teachers with a listing of recently published books recommended for children. The organization by genre gives an opportunity to introduce a variety of new books and to extend children's reading to a broader range of types and topics. Subcategories aid selection for teachers and librarians who want a book with a specific focus or to suit an instructional need.

Annotations include a critical statement about each book as well as an indication of the content. Where appropriate, information about quality and composition of illustrations is also given. In some cases, recommendations are given for using books within the curriculum. Age-level indications are suggested, but books may be chosen for individual

needs or for specific topics even though the age-level designation does not fit. In keeping with the intent of the booklist, a number of books for preschool children are included and so designated. At the other end of the range, some books designated for twelve-year-olds and up are intended to challenge mature readers. Bibliographic information is included for each annotation. In most cases, books in a series with similar content are referred to within a single annotation rather than annotated separately. For book-ordering purposes, a complete address for each publisher of the annotated books is given in the Directory of Publishers.

The table of contents indicates the categories this committee felt to be most useful to teachers, librarians, and media specialists using this booklist. In the genre of Contemporary Realistic Fiction, further categorization is difficult because many books have more than one theme that could be used as a basis for placing the book. Indeed, identification of a book as being about handicaps seems an artificial distinction, since a good book that includes attention to handicaps would also deal with personal or family relationships and could logically be placed in such a category as well. There is no easy solution, but this committee chose to place those books in a broader subcategory designated *Everyday Life*. In order to identify books more useful at preschool and primary grade levels, a separate category of *Everyday Life picture books* is included.

Throughout other sections of the booklist, picture books are integrated with other books of the genre and are identified by the notation *Picture book* in parentheses at the end of the annotation. That practice is intended as an aid to teachers of younger children who wish to involve children with a wide variety of literature appropriate for their reading/listening level.

The category *Books for Young Children* includes wordless picture books that tell a story, ABC books, books that aid concept identification, and counting books. The *Traditional Literature* category includes folk-songs and nursery rhymes as well as folktales, myths, and legends. Individual tales and collections range from books for young children to editions that will challenge good readers.

Fiction books in the collection are organized according to genre. Modern Fantasy subcategories reflect fantastic qualities of characters, time, and space. Science Fiction is included as a distinct subcategory. Historical Fiction books are grouped by location and time period. Contemporary Realistic Fiction is broken down into seven subcategories representing rather broad themes. The largest group, *Everyday Life*, has been further divided to list picture books and longer stories separately.

Annotations include information that calls attention to other themes, such as family relationships and handicaps, which may also be of interest in book selection.

The Poetry section is divided into anthologies and books representing a single poet. The Language section includes books about writing as well as books that encourage children to play with oral language.

The Social Studies, Biography, and Sciences sections are organized by topics often included in school curricula. In Sciences, the subcategory of The Animal Kingdom is further divided by species. It is perhaps not surprising that a separate category of books on computers appears in this edition of the booklist, since a considerable number of such books now appear each year.

Sections dealing with Fine Arts and with Crafts and Hobbies are organized by content areas. Books about Sports and Games are grouped by types of sports. The Holidays section is divided according to the holidays represented and includes some activity books as well as poetry, informational books, and stories related to the holidays.

This edition contains an unannotated list of recently published professional books about children's literature and a short list of recommended older professional titles. Included are books of critical reviews, sources of booklists, and teaching suggestions.

Caldecott and Newbery Medal and Honor Books are identified as such. A new feature of this booklist is the identification of books that have appeared on two other lists, the Children's Choices list prepared yearly by the International Reading Association/Children's Book Council Joint Committee, and the Teachers' Choices list prepared by the NCTE/CIÉ Joint Committee. These awards are listed at the end of the annotation.

Committee members served a number of functions as this booklist took shape. Early responsibilities included determination of criteria for inclusion in the list and decisions on appropriate category and subcategory designators. The reviewing was done by Rebecca Rapport and Bonnie Graves, literature consultants, Barbara Uffman Hanson, St. Paul Public Schools; Constance Gremore, Metropolitan State University; Mary Kay Rummell, White Bear, Minnesota, MacDougal-Littell Publishing Co.; Andrew Kantar, University of Minnesota; Sam Sebesta and Utako Mutsuyama, University of Washington; Sylvia Nosworthy, Walla Walla College; Katherine Chandler, Rosemount/Apple Valley School District, St. Paul; Nancy Johansen, Macalester College; Sharon Schapple, Marcia Rybczynski, Vicki Olson, and Laurie Snow, University of Minnesota; Karen Ritz and Tim Stanko, Minneapolis Public Schools.

Norine Odland provided book annotations originally published in the annual University of Minnesota publication *New Books for Young Readers*. Irvy Gilbertson, University of Minnesota, and Melinda Martin, though not members of the committee, contributed reviews. These reviewers did a fine job within a relatively short time frame and are to be commended for their professional attitude and willingness to put forth extra effort to get the job done.

Special thanks go to Marcia Rybczynski, the graduate assistant who took responsibility for organizing and monitoring book selection during the years this committee was at work. Her sound knowledge of literature and her organizational skills were of tremendous help in the completion of the project.

Dianne L. Monson  
University of Minnesota

# Books for Young Children

## Wordless Books

Anno, Mitsumasa. **Anno's Flea Market**. Philomel Books, 1984. 5 and up.

A wordless picture book preceded by a prologue explaining flea markets and followed by a short epilogue. The book is a treasure trove of objects—some identifiable, some not—which makes the looking even more fun. Patient observers will be rewarded with glimpses of Laurel and Hardy, Kermit the Frog, and other funny characters among the throngs of buyers and sellers. The universal character of the flea market adds to the book's appeal. A beautifully designed book with endpapers that seem to be fine, rich leather. (Picture book)

Brown, Margaret Wise. **Goodnight Moon Room**. Illus. by Clement Hurd. Harper & Row, 1984. 3-6.

This engaging complement to the original *Goodnight Moon* will have children asking to have the first book read so they can make comparisons. The first half of the original text is illustrated in this second book with ingenious pop-ups, the last page being a panorama of the little rabbit's room. "In the great green room . . ." is more literally accessible for young children who will enjoy manipulating a favorite story. (Picture book)

de Paola, Tomie. **The Hunter and the Animals**. Holiday House, 1981. 4 and up.

Folk art tells the story of a hunter who changes his mind about hunting after the animals in the forest bring him food and lead him home. The hunter realizes the animals are his friends, and he symbolically breaks his gun. Space, color, and movement work simultaneously to convey feelings and action in this wordless book. (Picture book)

Goodall, John S. **Lavinia's Cottage.** Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1983. 3-8.

This story of a little girl living in a cottage in the English countryside is told through pop-up pictures. Children will relish opening doors, peeking under tables, and making characters move. The cottage is brimming with interesting objects from a time gone by. Soft pastels predominate, setting a languid tone. (Picture book)

Goodall, John S. **Paddy Finds a Job.** Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1981. 3-7.

An episodic story told in only ten pages, but full of action, humor, and characters in motion. Young children will enjoy setting the scenes in motion by pulling tabs and peeking behind doors. The fragile nature of pop-up books will limit the life of the volume, but it will be liked by individual children or very small groups. Also recommended is *Shrewbettina Goes to Work*. (Picture book)

Goodall, John S. **Paddy Goes Traveling.** Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1982. 4-8.

Paddy's vacation trip to the Riviera is not without incident. From the moment his umbrella trips a waiter in the dining car to his surprise trip down a snow-covered mountain, the pages are filled with funny episodes. Children's Choices. (Picture book)

Goodall, John S. **Paddy Pork—Odd Jobs.** Illus. by author Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1983. 4-8.

A hilarious visual description of Paddy's bad experiences as a wallpaper hanger, a chimney repairman, a window cleaner, and a pump repairman. His efforts bring chaos each time, but in the end he is a hero when he finds and returns a missing child. (Picture book)

Hoban, Tana. **Is It Rough? Is It Smooth? Is It Shiny?** Greenwillow Books, 1984. 3-7.

The possibilities in discussing these unique photographs are limited only by children's and adults' imaginations. Texture is contrasted with texture; shapes and relationships of objects can be explored. Children will find the full-color photographs and their content appealing. Some photographs are classically beautiful, others very contemporary and humorous. A visual treat. (Picture book)

Hoban, Tana. **Take Another Look.** Greenwillow Books, 1981. All ages.

These photographs encourage children to look closely at everyday objects around them. The layout of the book allows children to guess an object before they actually see it. The book is excellent for stretching imaginations and for discussing photography. (Picture book)

**Keats, Ezra Jack. *Clementina's Cactus*. Viking Press, 1982. 5-8.**

Walking through the desert with her father, Clementina is fascinated by a rather ugly cactus. Later she is delighted to see her cactus in bloom. Illustrations capture the image of these pioneers and the beauty of the desert. (Picture book)

**Krahn, Fernando. *Arthur's Adventure in the Abandoned House*. E. P. Dutton, 1981. 4-7.**

When three robbers put Arthur in the attic of an abandoned house, he uses ingenuity to be rescued. Detailed pencil sketches give readers the full effect of the abandoned house. (Picture book)

**Krahn, Fernando. *Mr. Top*. William Morrow, 1983. All ages.**

Mr. Top does a favor for the traffic policeman and finds himself in a crazy pursuit of bank robbers. The accompanying illustrations are genuinely funny—much slapstick and silliness and good detail. (Picture book)

**Ormerod, Jan. *Moonlight*. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1982. 2-5.**

A wordless recounting of a little girl's bedtime routine on a night when sleep won't come. Realistic ink and color illustrations clearly convey her moods and capture her personality. The simple, familiar content and perceptively created characters will make this a highly appealing book for very young children. (Picture book)

**Ormerod, Jan. *Sunshine*. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1981. 2-5.**

A little girl awakens with the bright sunshine and tiptoes in to share the early morning with her sleepy parents. The realistic ink and color illustrations in this wordless picture book fill an otherwise ordinary story with rich detail, gentle humor, and the ingenious spirit of its main character. Young children will find much to discuss and enjoy. *Teachers' Choices*. (Picture book)

**Sasaki, Isao. *Snow*. Viking Press, 1982. 7-9.**

White fluffy snowflakes tumble down from a soft gray sky while a trainmaster goes about his work. Sasaki creates a delicate sense of



the silent world of snow in this wordless picture book. The framed illustrations that tell the story of a day at the train station may be too subtle for very young children, but older ones should be attracted by the quiet beauty of the book. (Picture book)

Spier, Peter. **Peter Spier's Rain.** Doubleday, 1982. 3-7.

A wordless picture book that tells with great detail the story of two children's adventures on a rainy day. It conveys a mood of excitement, a sense of a different world to explore. Full-color illustrations evoke rainy days and nights with blustery winds and activities that children will find familiar and enjoyable. Teachers' Choices. (Picture book)

Tafari, Nancy. **Have You Seen My Duckling?** Greenwillow Books, 1984. 2-6.

The only text in the book is the mother duck's repeated question, "Have you seen my duckling?" as she and the rest of the brood search for the missing duckling all day. Always close by, the duckling is found by young children in a new location on each page. Poster-styled illustrations in bright colors will attract readers who enjoy close-up looks at pond wildlife. Caldecott Honor Book. (Picture book)

Tanaka, Hideyuki. **The Happy Dog.** Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1983. 4-7.

Three adventures in the life of a lovable shaggy dog. The pen-and-ink illustrations with color wash carry the story very well. (Picture book)

Young, Ed. **The Other Bone.** Harper & Row, 1984. All ages.

A rollicking, wordless picture book. Young's soft-toned pencil drawings are vigorous in movement and expression. In some scenes they spill over the green-lined borders, advancing the action to the next page. The reader will long remember and laugh heartily at the dog's surprised and forlorn expression when his bone splashes into the pond and vanishes. (Picture book)

Young, Ed. **Up a Tree.** Harper & Row, 1983. 4-8.

In a wordless storybook with a Persian setting, a cat climbs a tree after being chased by a dog. All human attempts to rescue the cat are in vain. Soft pencil drawings enhance the action while bringing together the forms of the cat, the tree, and a passing butterfly. (Picture book)

**ABC Books**

Bayer, Jane. A, My Name Is Alice. Illus. by Steven Kellogg. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1984. 5-8.

Animals, names, locations, and activities for each letter are depicted in this unique alphabet book. The text is based on favorite rhymes children sing while bouncing a ball or jumping rope. Rare, unfamiliar animals are explained in the back of the book. Detailed full-color illustrations fill each page and include as many objects as possible for each letter. Much humor, both subtle and obvious. (Picture book)

Beller, Janet. A-B-C-ing: An Action Alphabet. Illus. by author. Crown, 1984. 4-7.

An action word for each letter of the alphabet is presented with an accompanying full-page photograph. All are familiar activities to young children, but some are unique to alphabet books. Large type, photographs and words are easily seen by groups of children. (Picture book)

Berger, Terry. Ben's ABC Day. Photographs by Alice Kandell. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1982. 4-7.

This ABC book centers around the daily activities of one child. Realistic color photographs depict Ben A-awakening, B-brushing, C-combing, and on through the alphabet until he is Z-zzzzzzzzz. Concepts are readily identified, and the activities depicted are true to life for young children. (Picture book)

Crews, Donald. We Read: A to Z. Greenwillow Books, 1984. 3-6.

This thought-provoking, unique alphabet book for young children teaches such concepts as shape, size, and position as well as the letters. The type is bold, clear, and unadorned. Illustrations in bright primary colors with geometric designs will challenge children to think. (Picture book)

Gundersheimer, Karen. A B C Say with Me. Harper & Row, 1984. 3-7.

An ABC book with lettering done only in capital letters. The small size of book is reminiscent of Beatrix Potter books. (Picture book)

Isadora, Rachel. City Seen from A to Z. Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1983. All ages.

This alphabet book depicts life in the city as it would be viewed

by a child. Black-and-white scenes are rich in detail and shading; they capture the heart of city life, its activity as well as its serenity. The letters of the alphabet are highlighted in muted brown and will attract the young reader's attention. (Picture book)

Kitchen, Bert. **Animal Alphabet**. Illus. by author. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1984. 3-5.

A sleepy-eyed elephant, with his dry, wrinkled skin and two pointed white tusks, gently wraps his trunk around a large letter E. With this magnificent cover illustration, Kitchen introduces an ABC book in which readers are invited to guess the animal that represents each letter, with the answers given in the back of the book. The brilliance and humor of the lifelike color illustrations will endear the book to readers. *Teachers' Choices*. (Picture book)

Lear, Edward. **An Edward Lear Alphabet**. Illus. by Carol Newsom. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1983. 3-7.

Childlike wordplay will have great appeal for young children: "L was once a little lark,/ Larky,/ Marky,/ Harky,/ Larky/ In the parky,/ Little lark!" Full-color illustrations are appropriately humorous, with a little mouse-person on each page. The title page with Lear puzzling over his writing is a tribute to the humorist. (Picture book)

Lobel, Arnold. **On Market Street**. Illus. by Anita Lobel. Greenwillow Books, 1981. 3-9.

A unique alphabet book with much detail to keep the young busy looking. Each person is decked out in or holding something that depicts the letter, such as lollipops for L or toys for T. Humor, color, and detail make this excellent for groups or for a child alone. *Caldecott Honor Book*; *Children's Choices*. (Picture book)

Miller, Jane. **Farm Alphabet Book**. Illus. by author. Prentice-Hall, 1984. 3-9.

Colorful, realistic illustrations depict many animals and life on the farm. Upper-case and lower-case letters are used along with an informative text. The unique treatment of Q and X makes this a welcome addition to the alphabet book collection. (Picture book)

Stevenson, James. **Grandpa's Great City Tour**. Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1983. 3-7.

An alphabet book that will entertain for hours as young readers pore over and chuckle at the laugh-filled city scenes. Full-page

watercolor illustrations; no text other than the letters of the alphabet. Best used on a one-to-one basis. (Picture book)

Warren, Cathy. **Victoria's ABC Adventure**. Illus. by Patience Brewster. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1984. 3-6.

An alphabet book with a picnic adventure. Within the text, letters are darkened at the beginning of words, encouraging children to read along. The story line is somewhat stilted and trite, but slapstick humor should appeal to young readers. Full-page color illustrations are easily seen in a large group setting. (Picture book)

Watson, Clyde. **Applebet: An ABC**. Illus. by Wendy Watson. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1982. 5-7.

A delightful variation on ABC books. This one chronicles the sights and sounds of a trip by a farmer and her daughter as they take their cargo of ripe apples to a country fair. Each letter is represented by a lyrical two-line verse describing some aspect of such a special trip on a bright fall day. Full-color illustrations capture the sense of cool air, bright colors, and the spectacles of the adventuresome day. (Picture book)

### Concept Identification

Allen, Pamela. **Who Sank the Boat?** Illus. by author. Coward-McCann, 1983. 4-8.

Young readers will enjoy trying to guess who causes the boat to sink when five animal friends decide to go for a ride. A simple, rhythmical text with repeating refrain is enhanced and extended by rollicking full-color illustrations that really tell the story. (Picture book)

Bailey, Jill. **Animals of Course! Eyes**. Photographs by Oxford Scientific Films. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1984. 1-4.

Bold, colorful photographs make this board book visually attractive. A close-up photograph of an animal's eyes is accompanied by the simple question "Who has these eyes?" The answer and total body picture follow on the next page, allowing for amusing parent-child interaction. (Picture book)

Barrett, Judi. **A Snake Is Totally Tail**. Illus. by L. S. Johnson. Atheneum, 1983. 5-7.

Marvelous ink and watercolor illustrations make this read-aloud book about animals and their special characteristics something that young readers will enjoy. Each illustration is accompanied by a one-sentence alliterative description that pokes gentle fun at the distinctiveness of certain animals. This could be a good springboard for young writers to create their own humorous definitions of animals. (Picture book)

Barton, Byron. **Airport**. Illus. by author. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1982. 4-7.

This book very simply presents what happens from the time a passenger arrives at the airport until the plane is in the air. Illustrations are large in bright, bold colors. (Picture book)

Brown, Ruth. **If at First You Do Not See**. Illus. by author. Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1982. 4-8.

Initially, turning the book to read the text can be confusing, but once a reader catches on to the technique it is most effective for seeing two pictures in each elaborate, colorful illustration. Young children should enjoy seeing and discovering all the creatures the caterpillar meets as it searches for food. (Picture book)

Burningham, John. **Sniff Shout**. Illus. by author. Viking Press, 1984. 3-5.

Humorous line and color-wash drawings accompany words for sounds made with the mouth—such as *slurp* and *cough*. The illustrations clearly define the words and are visually appealing. Other books in this Noisy Words series are *Skip Trip* and *Wobble Pop*. (Picture book)

Campbell, Rod. **Henry's Busy Day**. Illus. by author. Viking Kestrel, 1984. 4-6.

A sturdily bound book that introduces words through the antics of a lovable puppy. Young children will enjoy the ending, where they are invited to stroke a furry Henry, asleep in his basket. (Picture book)

Carle, Eric. **Catch the Ball!** Illus. by author. Philomel Books, 1982. 2-4.

This and the other concept books in the series introduce animals, colors, and fruits. The minimal text, bright colors, simple illustrations, and repetition of phrases will interest young children and

allow them to read along. Each book has a humorous surprise ending that will appeal to young readers. The sturdy pages and binding should withstand hard use. Other books in the Play-and-Read series are *Let's Paint a Rainbow* and *What's for Lunch?* (Picture book)

Chwast, Seymour. **Tall City, Wide Country.** Illus. by author. Viking Press, 1983. 2-5.

This book can be read forward or backward: it is held horizontally for the wide country and vertically for the tall city. Brightly colored, childlike illustrations are peopled by distorted characters and vehicles that fit the scene: tall and skinny for the city, squat and long for the country. A limited text describes activities in each picture. Children's Choices. (Picture book)

Crews, Donald. **Harbor.** Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1982. 3-6.

Both the text and the illustrations are as basic as possible to give young readers an idea of what a harbor is. The last page of ship shapes is an added enjoyment. (Picture book)

Crews, Donald. **Light.** Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1981. 4-6.

Colors and shapes graphically communicate the luminosity of nighttime, of city lights, of headlights and taillights, and of neon lights. The depiction of starlight is particularly stunning, especially in contrast to the tranquil but well-lit moonlight scene that precedes it. This visually stimulating book demonstrates that the night is as full of light as is the day. Children's Choices. (Picture book)

Crews, Donald. **Parade.** Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1983. 4-6.

From setup to clean-up, a parade is vibrantly celebrated through bold, energetic illustrations that literally parade the marchers, bands, and floats in front of the reader. With a simple text, Crews explores all the excitement, color, and motion of a parade from the perspective of a young child. The vivid sensory images should captivate young children as they relive the noise and color of a parade. Children's Choices. (Picture book)

Crews, Donald. **School Bus.** Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1984. 3-6.

This book is sure to be appreciated by young children who love

school buses and see them as one of the most important aspects of school. Bright yellow buses cross town taking children to and from school and patiently wait in straight lines for children to leave their classrooms. A day in the life of a school bus is told through the illustrations with minimal text. (Picture book)

Duke, Kate. **Guinea Pigs Far and Near**. Illus. by author. E. P. Dutton, 1984. 2-5.

A story that has proven to be a real favorite with preschool children. Such concepts as *among*, *across*, *below*, and *inside out* are taught through the doings of funny, humanlike guinea pigs who have interesting dilemmas and relationships. The illustrations clearly show the concepts and enhance their meanings. (Picture book)

Fisher, Leonard Everett. **Boxes! Boxes!** Illus. by author. Viking Press, 1984. 3-7.

Accompanying vivid, brightly colored full-page acrylic illustrations of boxes and objects to fit into the boxes is a simple text in rhyme form that young children can soon read. The illustrations are large enough to use in groups, with enough detail to involve children on an individual basis. The author's notes suggest activities using this book. (Picture book)

Gibbons, Gail. **Tool Book**. Illus. by author. Holiday House, 1982. 4-7.

A presentation of simple vocabulary and pictures of common tools used in building a house. The book is nicely designed with a variety in arrangements on the pages. The solid colors are more decorative than realistic. The book will rate well with young children and will help them to identify real tools. (Picture book)

Gibbons, Gail. **Tunnels**. Illus. by author. Holiday House, 1984. 6-8.

Employing bold primary colors and using an enlarged format and minimal narrative, Gibbons describes the various kinds of tunnels and how they are used, ranging from ant tunnels to mining tunnels. Even though the book is designed for the young reader, the more complex types of support used in some tunnels could be pointed out to the older reader. A brief history of tunnels concludes the text. A complement to two other books by the author, *Boat Book* and *Tool Book*. (Picture book)

Gillham, Bill. **The Early Words Picture Book**. Illus. by Sam Grainger. Coward-McCann, 1983. 2-7.

Outstanding photography and a vocabulary that is out of the ordinary make this a very usable book. The photographer uses the same family as in previous books by the author, providing a look of familiarity for children. (Picture book)

Gillham, Bill, and Susan Hulme. *Let's Look for Opposites*. Illus. by Jan Siegieda. Coward-McCann, 1984. 4-7.

Attractive photographs illustrate the concept of simple antonyms. In all cases but one, where a child just awakening is described as "wide awake," the illustrations are clear and accurate. A good book for individual students. Other books in the series are *Let's Look for Colors*; *Let's Look for Numbers*; and *Let's Look for Shapes*. (Picture book)

Goor, Ron, and Nancy Goor. *Signs*. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1983. 4-7.

A photographic essay with a simple text showing familiar signs in their natural settings. Many of the signs are not seen every day and may not be included in other books about signs. A challenge section at the conclusion is for children to match and or identify signs. (Picture book)

Hayes, Geoffrey. *Patrick and Ted*. Illus. by author. Four Winds Press, 1984. 4-7.

Deals with a concept young children need to learn—that it is nice to have a best friend, but you don't have to be together all of the time. Hayes's illustrations make the point in an unemotional way. (Picture book)

Hoban, Tana. *A, B, See!* Photographs by author. Greenwillow Books, 1982. 3-5.

A sophisticated concept book with silhouetted photographs illustrating the objects to be identified. This is a challenging book, since the child must have a well-developed sense for shapes and a fruitful vocabulary in order to identify the objects. The book could help older children with graphic awareness. (Picture book)

Hoban, Tana. *I Walk and Read*. Photographs by author. Greenwillow Books, 1984. 3-7.

Color photographs of signs found in the city will give children a fresh look at familiar objects and will provide some concrete pictorial help for practicing beginning reading skills. The book is subtly humorous, beginning with a photograph labeled "IN" and an arrow on the street and closing with a photograph of a sign



saying "END." Even the cover is a sign saying "This Way" and pointing into the book. (Picture book)

Hoban, Tana. **More Than One.** Photographs by author. Greenwillow Books, 1981. 2-7.

A fine collection of black-and-white photographs depicting ten collective nouns: *group, pile, crowd, stack, bundle, bunch, herd, flock, row, and team.* The author asks the reader to think creatively and to decide how many of the terms might apply to each picture. This is an entertaining and challenging way for children to learn the concepts presented. (Picture book)

Hoban, Tana. **Round and Round and Round.** Photographs by author. Greenwillow Books, 1983. 2-6.

Children are encouraged to find all that is round on each page; some circles are obvious, others less so. Beautiful, brightly colored photographs of everyday objects and interesting situations will draw children to the book. The artistic composition of each photograph makes the book a visual treat. (Picture book)

Jonas, Ann. **Holes and Peeks.** Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1984. 2-5.

To this very young child, holes are ominous and threatening, but "peeks," which he can control, are fun. Simple line and color illustrations, done from a child's perspective, demonstrate clearly the emotional difference between a hole and a peek. A reassuring book for the very young. (Picture book)

Jonas, Ann. **Round Trip.** Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1983. 5-8.

Exceptional black-and-white silhouettes allow the reader to travel through the book, turn the book upside down, and travel back home again. Each page presents a graphically different image and story from either direction. It could spur creative ideas in art class for older children. Children's Choices. (Picture book)

Jonas, Ann. **When You Were a Baby.** Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1982. 3-5.

Demonstrates the development of a child by identifying what things she could not do as a baby and what things she can do now that

she is older. The story line is good, but the color, important for a strong graphic style, lacks interest and vibrancy. (Picture book)

Kalan, Robert. **Jump, Frog, Jump!** Illus. by Byron Barton. Greenwillow Books, 1981. 4-6.

A simple tale of how a frog repeatedly escapes disaster by jumping away. Young children will enjoy the choruslike repetition of lines and the bold, primitive illustrations. (Picture book)

Komori, Atsushi. **Animal Mothers.** Illus. by Masayuki Yabuuchi. Philomel Books, 1983. 4-6.

With dramatically realistic illustrations and with a simple but accurate text, this book will fascinate young children with its portrayal of how animal mothers help their young to get from one place to another. Also in this series is *Animals Sleeping*. (Picture book)

Le Tord, Bijou. **Rabbit Seeds.** Illus. by author. Four Winds Press, 1984. 3-6.

Beginning with the initial task of preparing the soil in the spring and ending with putting away the tools in the fall, the book chronicles the work cycle of the gardener. The brief text is accompanied by simple but charmingly expressive line drawings of the rabbit gardener at work. (Picture book)

Lüton, Mildred. **Little Chicks' Mothers and All the Others.** Illus. by Mary Maki Rae. Viking Kestrel, 1983. 2-4.

Brightly colored illustrations of animal mothers and babies are bordered with shapes reminiscent of barns and farm buildings. The endpapers repeat those shapes. The simple rhyming text calls attention to the names of animal mothers. (Picture book)

McMillan, Bruce. **Here a Chick, There a Chick.** Photographs by author. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1983. 1-3.

In a book illustrated with color photographs, readers can follow baby chicks in, out, up, down, left, right, and around. A single contrast on each spread provides other basic vocabulary for the very young. The simplicity of format and the appeal of animals will make this a favorite. (Picture book)

McMillan, Bruce. **Kitten Can. . . .** Photographs by author. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1984. 4-7.

Large, colorful photographs of a calico kitten are accompanied by captions in giant, boldface type. Each photograph demonstrates a different action, and the action verb is printed in upper-case letters. The kitten's energy, playfulness, and curiosity are clearly portrayed. (Picture book)

Muntean, Michaela. **Monkey's Marching Band.** Illus. by Nicole Rubel. E. P. Dutton, 1984. 4-7.

This sturdy book will engage readers in learning about musical instruments through pictures and number matching. As the story is read, children can play a simple card game that emerges as a picture puzzle. Also recommended is *Little Lamb Bakes a Cake*. (Picture book)

Peppe, Rodney. **Little Circus.** Illus. by author. Viking Press, 1983. 1-4.

Bright, colorful illustrations accompany a simple, descriptive text in this small board book. The characters are familiar childhood toys that will appeal to the very young. Other titles in this Little Toy Board Books series are *Little Dolls*; *Little Games*; *Little Numbers*; and *Little Wheels*. (Picture book)

Peters, Sharon. **Animals at Night.** Illus. by Paul Harvey. Troll Associates, 1982. 4-7.

Although it is somewhat marred by an opening scene showing a small bear in pajamas, this book and others in the series present concepts simply and directly. Other books in the Now I Know series are *All about Seeds*; *Horses*; *Monkeys*; *Turtles*; and *What Is a Reptile?* (Picture book)

Pienkowski, Jan. **Homes.** Illus. by author. Julian Messner, 1983. 2-5.

Opposite each simple, large painting in primary colors is a one-word identification in black letters on a bright background. Other books in the series are *Sizes*; *Time*; and *Weather*. (Picture book)

Pomerantz, Charlotte. **Where's the Bear?** Illus. by Byron Barton. Greenwillow Books, 1984. 2-5.

The townspeople search for the bear, but it is the bear who finds them. The confluence of the story in illustration and in a simple rhyme invites chanting, singing, dramatization, and movement. Bold colors, strong images. (Picture book)

Rahn, Joan Elma. **Holes.** Houghton Mifflin, 1984. 3-7.

Holes, holes, and more holes fill this innovative book for young children: holes that are openings, holes that help tear things, holes that decorate. Small black-and-white photographs complement the text and help children extend their understanding of the concepts being taught. (Picture book)

Robbins, Ken. **Tools**. Photographs by author. Four Winds Press, 1983. 4-9.

Clear, uncluttered photographs of twenty-three basic tools have been hand-tinted by the author. Each tool, such as a paintbrush and a screwdriver, is shown with its standard name. At the end, a full spread shows all the tools, giving a better idea of relative sizes. Older readers can provide information about possible uses for the tools. (Picture book)

Rockwell, Anne. **Trucks**. Illus. by author. E. P. Dutton, 1984. 3-5.

A brief, simple text introduces a variety of trucks and their purposes. The colorful line drawings extend the text, providing important details, while the animal characters add a touch of humor. (Picture book)

Rockwell, Anne, and Harlow Rockwell. **Can I Help?** Macmillan, 1982. 3-6.

This is one in a set of books that shows children how to help at home, play in their rooms, tend a garden, and care for pets, among other concepts. The text and illustrations are clear and simple to suit the age of potential readers. Other books in the series are *Happy Birthday to Me*; *How My Garden Grew*; *I Love My Room*; *I Love My Pets*; and *Sick in Bed*. (Picture book)

Rockwell, Anne, and Harlow Rockwell. **My Barber**. Macmillan. 1981. 4-7.

Getting a haircut becomes a happy experience for young readers. Full-page illustrations of the barber's instruments provide an in-depth look at the whole procedure. The barber's shop is shown in bright and exciting colors. The first-person narrative gives the adventure a certain intimacy. (Picture book)

Tafari, Nancy. **All Year Long**. Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1983. 3-5.

Beautiful line drawings illustrate the days of the week and months of the year. The book is simple but attractive in color and design. (Picture book)

Testa, Fulvio. **If You Look around You.** Illus. by author. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1983. 3-7.

With charming full-color illustrations in ink and dye and a simple text, the author-illustrator depicts geometric shapes using examples from the world of the intended audience. (Picture book)

Watanabe, Shigeo. **Get Set! Go!** Illus. by Yasuo Ohtomo. Philomel Books, 1981. 4-7.

Not many children for whom this book was written will have ever gone through an obstacle race such as the one Bear does in this forty-three-word story. But with a parent or teacher discussing the illustrations, children may see the value in persevering to the end and may learn that joy can be found in the process, not just in winning. (Picture book)

Watanabe, Shigeo. **I Can Build a House!** Illus. by Yasuo Ohtomo. Philomel Books, 1983. 3-4.

With simple words and illustrations, the book shows children how to succeed at seemingly difficult tasks by a step-by-step approach. Also recommended is *I Can Ride It!* (Picture book)

### Counting Books

Bang, Molly. **Ten, Nine, Eight.** Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1983. 2-6.

An effective integration of a bedtime story and a counting book with a twist: a countdown until the little girl is asleep. This is a tender portrayal of love between a father and daughter. Illustrations with vibrant colors and patterns are predominant. A cat's mischief adds a touch of humor to the first half of the book. Caldecott Honor Book. (Picture book)

Burningham, John. **Count Up.** Illus. by author. Viking Press, 1983. 3-5.

One in a series of six books that introduces children to number concepts through funny animals engaging in outrageous activities. Included are simple addition and subtraction as well as such basic concepts as learning to identify the signs and the names for numbers and learning about numbers as sets and groups. All are sturdy board books. Other titles in the Viking Number Play series are

*Five Down; Just Cats; Pigs Plus; Read One; and Ride Off.* (Picture book)

Crowther, Robert. **The Most Amazing Hide-and-Seek Counting Book.** Illus. by author. Viking Kestrel, 1981. 3-6.

A counting book that has levers to pull, tabs to push, and other parts for young counters to manipulate. Bold, brightly colored pictures of plants and animals are attractive and fun to count. The counting goes from 1 to 20 and then proceeds by tens to 100. The book is easily worn out and ripped from repeated manipulation, but it definitely will stimulate children to count. (Picture book)

Gerstein, Mordicai. **Roll Over!** Illus. by author. Crown, 1984. 3-6.

A small bedtime counting book based on the familiar childhood song "Roll Over!" Readers lift flaps to discover the surprise sleepers who fall out of bed each time, and they like the twist at the end when all the sleepers get back into bed. (Picture book)

Hawkins, Colin. **Adding Animals.** Illus. by author. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1983. 4-6.

Introduces the concept of addition through humorous illustrations. Although the ideas are simple, children will need to read fairly well in order to appreciate some of the humor. (Picture book)

Howe, Caroline Walton. **Counting Penguins, 0 to 9.** Harper & Row, 1983. 3-7.

This interesting counting book begins with 0 rather than the usual 1 and ends at 9 instead of 10. The subtle use of the numbers within the illustrations will challenge the child's visual discrimination skills. (Picture book)

Hutchins, Pat. **One Hunter.** Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1982. 4-7.

A counting book with a droll sense of humor. One steadfast hunter stalks the jungle, unaware of the animals who are watching him. The exotic animals are cleverly disguised in each picture as visual puzzles for the viewers. The brightly colored illustrations are detailed, and a surprise ending provides an appropriately funny conclusion to the book. (Picture book)

Noll, Sally. **Off and Counting.** Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1984. 2-5.

A windup frog counts toys from 1 to 10. Double-page illustrations are simple and brightly colored, presenting number concepts clearly and without clutter. A visually pleasing, useful book. (Picture book)

Pomerantz, Charlotte. **One Duck, Another Duck.** Illus. by Jose Aruego and Ariane Dewey. Greenwillow Books, 1984. 3-6.

This book should have special appeal to any parent or teacher of young children who has been frustrated in attempts to teach them to count. Children will identify happily with the process, too. Brightly colored, comic illustrations amplify the simple text; characters will look familiar to readers of other books by these illustrators. (Picture book)

### Additional Books for Young Children

- Anno, Mitsumasa. *Anno's Alphabet: An Adventure in Imagination.* Thomas Y. Crowell, 1974. 5 and up.
- Baskin, Hosea, Tobias Baskin, and Lisa Baskin. *Hosie's Alphabet.* Illus. by Leonard Baskin. Viking Press, 1972. 4-7.
- Carle, Eric. *The Very Hungry Caterpillar.* Illus. by author. Collins-World, 1972. 4-7.
- Eichenberg, Fritz. *Ape in a Cape: An Alphabet of Odd Animals.* Illus. by author. Harcourt, Brace & World, 1952. 4-6.
- Feelings, Muriel. *Jambo Means Hello: Swahili Alphabet Book.* Illus. by Tom Feelings. Dial Press, 1974. 5-10.
- Feelings, Muriel. *Moja Means One: Swahili Counting Book.* Illus. by Tom Feelings. Dial Press, 1971. 5-10.
- Gág, Wanda. *The ABC Bunny.* Illus. by author. Coward-McCann, 1953. 3-6.
- Goodall, John S. *The Adventures of Paddy Pork.* Illus. by author. Harcourt, Brace & World, 1968. 4-6.
- Hoban, Tana. *Count and See.* Illus. by author. Macmillan, 1972. 4-7.
- Hoban, Tana. *Look Again.* Macmillan, 1971. 6-14.
- Hoban, Tana. *Push-Pull, Empty-Full: A Book of Opposites.* Macmillan, 1972. 3-7.
- Hutchins, Pat. *Changes, Changes.* Illus. by author. Macmillan, 1971. 3-7.
- Krahn, Fernando. *A Flying Saucer Full of Spaghetti.* Illus. by author. E. P. Dutton, 1970. 4-12.
- Langstaff, John. *Over in the Meadow.* Illus. by Feodor Rojankovsky. Harcourt, Brace & World, 1957. 3 and up.

- Mayer, Mercer. *Frog Goes to Dinner*. Illus. by author. Dial Press, 1974. 4-12.
- Mendoza, George. *The Marcel Marceau Alphabet Book*. Photographs by Milton H. Greene. Doubleday, 1970. 6-10.
- Oxenbury, Helen. *Helen Oxenbury's ABC of Things*. Illus. by author. Franklin Watts, 1972. 4-7.
- Ringi, Kjell. *The Wirner*. Illus. by author. Harper & Row, 1969. 4-6.
- Sendak, Maurice. *One Was Johnny: A Counting Book* (in *The Nutshell Library*). Harper & Row, 1962. 4-7.
- Tresselt, Alvin R. *White Snow, Bright Snow*. Illus. by Roger Duvoisin. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1947. 4-7.
- Tudor, Tasha. *A Is for Annabelle*. Illus. by author. Henry Z. Walck, 1954. 5-7.
- Udry, Janice M. *A Tree Is Nice*. Illus. by Marc Simont. Harper & Row, 1956. 4-7.
- Ueno, Noriko. *Elephant Buttons*. Illus. by author. Harper & Row, 1973. 4 and up.
- Ward, Lynd. *The Silver Pony*. Illus. by author. Houghton Mifflin, 1973. 8-12.
- Wildsmith, Brian. *Brian Wildsmith's ABC*. Illus. by author. Franklin Watts, 1963. 3-5.
- Winters, Paula. *The Bear and the Fly*. Illus. by author. Crown, 1976. 5-10.



# Traditional Literature

## Fables

Cauley, Lorinda Bryan, reteller. **The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse.** Illus. by reteller. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1984. 4-8.

Contrasts of city and country life are sharply drawn in this tale of two very different mice. The pace of storytelling is matched to the action: slow in the country when the city mouse is bored, fast in the city when the country mouse lives through a harrowing experience. Illustrations set the tale in Victorian times and are sumptuous in detail and color. (Picture book)

Duff, Maggie, adapter. **Dancing Turtle.** Illus. by Maria Horvath. Macmillan, 1981. All ages.

This adaptation of an American folktale cautions against listening to flatterers and features a variety of good-natured tricksters. Dark green linoleum-cut illustrations capture some of the more dramatic and humorous scenes and add dimension to the characters.

Ivanov, Anatoly, reteller. **O! Jake's Lucky Day.** Illus. by reteller. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1984. 4-7.

Reminiscent of the moral "Don't count your chickens before they are hatched," this Russian fable relates the dreams of Jake as he stalks a hare. Full-page, detailed watercolor illustrations effectively alternate between reality and Jake's vision. Small characters across the bottom of the page help show Jake edging toward his goal. An attractive, appealing book. (Picture book)

Lionni, Leo. **Cornelius.** Illus. by author. Pantheon Books, 1983. 5-8.

A delightful fable about an alligator who dares to be different. Lionni's collage style captures the spirit of his text with sharp-edged depiction of crocodiles and their river environment. The simple fable has an undercurrent of meaning that readers will easily detect as they recognize that the ending relates to more than crocodiles. (Picture book)

Sewell, Marcia, reteller. **The Cobbler's Song.** Illus. by reteller. Unicorn Books, 1982. 5-10.

A retelling of the old fable of a rich man and a poor man who live in the same house. The true meaning of happiness is explored. Bright, full-color paintings are done in impressionistic style. Those contrasting the rich man's surroundings upstairs to the cobbler's basement environment are of unusual design. (Picture book)

Stevens, Janet, adapter. **The Tortoise and the Hare.** Illus. by adapter. Holiday House, 1984. 5-8.

Recounts Aesop's tale of the race between the boastful hare and the persevering tortoise. This humorous adaptation of a perennial favorite is illustrated with huge, colorful, rollicking pictures that add comic details certain to delight any audience.

Zhang Xiu Shi, adapter. **Monkey and the White Bone Demon.** Illus. by Lin Zheng, Fei Chang Fu, Xin Kuan Liang, and Zhang Xiu Shi. Viking Kestrel, 1984. 8-12.

Monkey, the hero of the tale, is the star of a television series called "Monkey." The story, adapted from a sixteenth-century Chinese novel, is beautifully illustrated with paintings that reveal traditional Chinese symbols and clothing. (Picture book)

### Folktales and Fairy Tales

Aardema, Verna, reteller. **Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain.** Illus. by Beatriz Vidal. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1981. 6-9.

This retelling of a tale from Kenya uses a cumulative style to tell of the animals in a drought. Multicolored pictures achieve a flat effect on lightly coated paper. (Picture book)

Aardema, Verna, reteller. **Oh, Kojo! How Could You!** Illus. by Marc Brown. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1984. 4-8.

Ananse the spider is up to his usual tricks in this noodle-head tale, but he still loses in the end. Children like the fact that Kojo can be fooled so many times by the trickster. The element of three and magic are woven into the story. Comical illustrations are in bold African colors and patterns. (Picture book)

Aardema, Verna, reteller. **The Vingananee and the Tree Toad: A Liberian Tale.** Illus. by Ellen Weiss. Frederick Warne, 1983. 3-8.

A humorous Liberian folktale in which the Vingananee, a shaggy monster, terrorizes animals on Spider's farm by stealing the stew. Not even Lion can save the supper, but there is still hope. Sound effects and the Vingananee's song make this book especially well suited for reading aloud. Illustrations incorporate colorful African geometric patterns.

Appiah, Peggy, reteller. **Tales of an Ashanti Father.** Illus. by Mora Dickson. André Deutsch, 1981. 6-10.

Kwaku Ananse is a rascally spider with magical qualities. He takes the form of a man until he gets into trouble, which is often, and then he retreats to the cobwebs. These stories, part of the oral tradition of Ghana, West Africa, are lively, varied, and funny. Kwaku Ananse is blessed, or burdened, with an enormous sense of his own importance, which more often than not lands him in trouble. However, he is shrewd and quick-witted, usually sidestepping impossible situations in simple ways.

Bang, Molly, adapter. **Tye May and the Magic Brush.** Illus. by adapter. Greenwillow Books, 1981. 5-8.

A traditional Chinese tale, retold with a female heroine, in which a poor child receives a brush with magic capabilities. Soft pencil sketches with the occasional touch of red have some of the same magic. The easy-to-read text demonstrates that justice triumphs over greed. (Picture book)

Birrer, Cynthia, and William Birrer, retellers. **The Shoemaker and the Elves.** Illus. by retellers. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1983. 4-8.

Cynthia Birrer is a South African artist who works in the medium of textile and stitchery. Her fabric and stitchery artwork adds imagery that illuminates and extends this simple tale of a shoemaker aided by two elves. The appliqué style adds a three-dimensional effect. Every face is filled with expression, and the characters seem very lifelike. (Picture book)

Cauley, Lorinda Bryan, reteller. **The Goose and the Golden Coins.** Illus. by reteller. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1981. All ages.

With the aid of richly textured, full-color illustrations, characters in this traditional Italian tale assume individuality, the village marketplace comes alive, and the full humor of the story is realized. Older readers will appreciate the subtle text, and younger children

will delight in seeing the goose hang on to the prince's slightly exposed backside. *Children's Choices*. (Picture book)

Cauley, Lorinda Bryan, reteller. **Jack and the Beanstalk**. Illus. by reteller. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1983. 4-8.

Children love to listen to Jack's adventures and will enjoy this well-told version illustrated with full-color oil paintings. The giant is a powerful figure with a spiked arm band, and he fills the page. Luminous colors, skilled painting of light and shadows, and heavy-textured use of oils characterize the illustrations in this master work. (Picture book)

Cohen, Barbara, and Bahija Lovejoy, retellers. **Seven Daughters and Seven Sons**. Atheneum, 1982. 12 and up.

A rich retelling of an Arabic folktale in which the heroine, Buran, disguises herself as a boy to protect her family's small fortune from her profligate cousins. The depth of character and an exotic setting create a moving tale of a young girl struggling with the limitations imposed by society.

Cole, Joanna, compiler. **Best-Loved Folktales of the World**. Illus. by Jill Karla Schwarz. Doubleday, 1982. 6 and up.

An invaluable, comprehensive collection of folktales from around the world, organized by regions. Many familiar tales are included, but with such a wealth of stories from faraway lands, many are unfamiliar. A short introduction to folklore is included. The index is organized into categories of tales: Women and Girls, Humorous, Fools, the Devil.

Cole, Joanna, adapter. **Bony-Legs**. Illus. by Dirk Zimmer. Four Winds Press, 1983. 5-8.

A mirror and a comb help a young girl escape from an old witch. This Russian folktale is an easy-to-read adaptation for young children, but the story also reads aloud well. The full-color illustrations are easily seen in group settings. Those of *Bony-Legs*, the witch, are particularly good.

Cooper, Susan, reteller. **The Silver Cow: A Welsh Tale**. Illus. by Warwick Hutton. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1983. 5-9.

How did the white water lilies come to grow by the edge of the water of Llyn Barfog, "the bearded lake"? The mystical tale is told with powerful language and a lilting cadence. Luminous water-

colors extend the tale, giving it an other-worldly quality while illustrating the pastoral beauty of the Welsh countryside. Substantial figures are classically inspired and stylistically unique. (Picture book)

de la Mare, Walter, reteller. **Molly Whuppie**. Illus. by Errol Le Cain. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1983. All ages.

This fine retelling of a classic folktale is beautifully illustrated with radiant full-color paintings that capture the tale's humor and magic. (Picture book)

de Paola, Tomie. **Fin M'Coul: The Giant of Knockmany Hill**. Illus. by author. Holiday House, 1981. 6-10.

The beginning page sets the scene for the drama, a tale that happened in Ireland long ago when there were fairies, leprechauns, and giants. In this tale, Fin M'Coul, a popular Irish giant, tries to outwit the fierce Cucullin, the biggest of all the giants in Ireland. Illustrations in rich colors accentuate the size of the giants and develop the folklore atmosphere. Tiny people and tiny animals sit on the edges of tables; designs from old Irish jewelry decorate the borders of the pages. Children's Choices. (Picture book)

de Paola, Tomie, adapter. **The Mysterious Giant of Barletta**. Illus. by reteller. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1984. 5-9.

In a town in Italy stands a statue of a giant about which many legends are told. Children will enjoy this story, adapted from an eleventh-century legend, of how the statue fooled an army and saved the town. Illustrations are effective as the giant fills each page, towering over people, trees, and buildings. (Picture book)

Dewey, Ariane. **Febold Feboldson**. Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1984. 3-9.

A good introduction for younger children to stories about "the first farmer to come to the Great Plains" and to tall tales in general. The text is pared down; the use of chapters will appeal to the older children for whom the stories are appropriate. Humorous line drawings illustrate the exaggerations. (Picture book)

Dewey, Ariane. **The Thunder God's Son**. Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1981. 6-9.

Lightning strikes the reader upon opening this bright book based upon the simple folk arts of Peru. Mountains, foliage, multicolored

llamas, foxes, serpents, and costumes are nicely balanced with the bold typeface of the text. There is variety in the illustrations: dramatic shapes stand out on white pages, while other pages are filled with color. (Picture book)

Domanska, Janina. **A Scythe, a Rooster and a Cat.** Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1981. 6-9.

The motif—three sons each given a gift by their father at his death—is made lively by the nature of the gifts and made elegant by the paintings done in muted colors. The design of each illustration and the entire book evoke a mood of make-believe. There are necessary details but no elaboration, so it is easily read and discussed in one session. (Picture book)

Gackenbach, Dick, reteller. **Arabella and Mr. Crack.** Illus. by reteller. Macmillan, 1982. 3-7.

Children will laugh out loud at Arabella's plight as she tries to learn all the crazy new words Mr. Crack has invented for such things as boots, dogs, and pants. The zany tale is enhanced by humorous drawings of the pudgy pair in early English clothing and surroundings. (Picture book)

Galdone, Paul. **The Teeny-Tiny Woman: A Ghost Story.** Illus. by author. Clarion Books, 1984. 4-8.

This lively retelling of an old English ghost story will keep children on the edges of their seats. Pictures help to convey the "smallness" of the story with some humor. The churchyard gate, the staircase railing, and the cupboard all have faces with whimsical or scared expressions. (Picture book)

Gammell, Stephen, reteller. **The Story of Mr. and Mrs. Vinegar.** Illus. by reteller. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1982. 5-9.

A humorous noodle-head story that will keep children groaning at the nonsense throughout. Detailed pencil drawings softly portray the homely, loving Vinegars and their surroundings just the way the reader would imagine. The smallness of the book is appropriate for a story of two people who live in a vinegar bottle. (Picture book)

Ginsburg, Mirra, reteller. **The Magic Stove.** Illus. by Linda Heller. Coward-McCann, 1983. All ages.

In this unusual Russian tale, a rooster discovers and later reclaims

from a thieving king a magic stove that bakes pies from nothing. The smooth-flowing text has a poetic quality. The dramatic action of the story and emotions of the characters are captured in stylized three-color illustrations. (Picture book)

Godden, Rumer, reteller. **The Valiant Chatti-Maker.** Illus. by Jeroo Roy. Viking Press, 1983. 2-12.

Godden's witty retelling of an old Indian folktale is complemented by Roy's vibrant color paintings and black-and-white drawings, which create a vivid, exotic setting. The characters, both human and animal, are full of life and humor. Godden has blended an elaborate language with a simple, direct telling of events. The result is an energetic story that illuminates the Indian culture.

Grimm, Jakob, and Wilhelm Grimm. **Cinderella.** Illus. by Nonny Hogrogian. Greenwillow Books, 1981. 6-12.

A traditional Grimm version of "Cinderella," quite removed from the Disney version. In place of a fairy godmother are a magical hazel tree and a beautiful fairy dove. Illustrations are soft and lovely, each with a border that gives the impression it could be framed and hung. (Picture book)

Grimm, Jakob, and Wilhelm Grimm (retold by Nonny Hogrogian). **The Devil with the Three Golden Hairs.** Illus. by reteller. Alfred A. Knopf, 1983. 5-9.

Contains many elements common to traditional literature that make these stories so enjoyable and enduring: good triumphs over evil; a young boy sets out on a journey and wins the hand of the princess by completing a task; and an old woman uses three tricks to outwit the devil. The story is smoothly retold, true to the original. Pastel illustrations done in soft strokes sharply contrast with the devil's red clothes. Interesting use of double-page spreads; humorous endpapers. (Picture book)

Grimm, Jakob, and Wilhelm Grimm (retold by Paul Galdone). **The Elves and the Shoemaker.** Illus. by reteller. Clarion Books, 1984. 3-7.

A retelling that is true to the original tale, one of children's favorites. Illustrations of the kindly shoemaker and his wife, the two unclothed spritely elves, and the cluttered shop with the shoemaker's tools bring the story to life. The bold strokes give movement and are contrasted with the soft shadows and colors that predominate. (Picture book)

Grimm, Jakob, and Wilhelm Grimm (retold by Rika Lesser). **Hansel and Gretel**. Illus. by Paul O. Zelinsky. Dodd, Mead, 1984. 6-12.

A concise retelling of this popular tale, based on two early Grimm versions. Rich, full-color paintings complement the text. Caldecott Honor Book. (Picture book)

Grimm, Jakob, and Wilhelm Grimm (retold by Barbara Cooney). **Little Brother and Little Sister**. Illus. by reteller. Doubleday, 1982. 6-9.

An exquisitely illustrated retelling of a tale from the Brothers Grimm. Cooney's illustrations show evidence of her careful research and attention to detail. They capture the essence of medieval life and interpret the mood of this tale. (Picture book)

Grimm, Jakob, and Wilhelm Grimm (translated by Elizabeth D. Crawford). **Little Red Cap**. Illus. by Lisbeth Zwerger. William Morrow, 1983. 7-10.

A careful translation of "Little Red Riding Hood" in which a hunter rescues Little Red Cap and her grandmother from the wolf. Uncluttered illustrations focus on the color of Little Red Cap while the expressive wolf plots his treachery. (Picture book)

Grimm, Jakob, and Wilhelm Grimm (retold by Trina Schart Hyman). **Little Red Riding Hood**. Illus. by reteller. Holiday House, 1983. 4-8.

A loose retelling of the Grimm tale with many details (some unnecessary) added: Red Riding Hood is named, and she moralizes in the end. Because of the added material, some of the drama and cadence of the original tale is diminished. The power of this version lies in the richly colored, full-page illustrations conveying the theme of innocence overcome by evil. They are filled with the details of life in the woods that will fascinate children. Caldecott Honor Book; Children's Choices. (Picture Book)

Grimm, Jakob, and Wilhelm Grimm (retold by Barbara Rogasky). **Rapunzel**. Illus. by Trina Schart Hyman. Holiday House, 1982. 7-10.

A smooth retelling of this classic tale in which the beautiful maiden with the long golden hair is rescued from the tower by a handsome prince. The illustrations are detailed and evocative. (Picture book)

Grimm, Jakob, and Wilhelm Grimm (translated by Ralph Manheim). **Rare Treasures from Grimm: Fifteen Little-Known Tales**. Illus. by Erik Blegvad. Doubleday, 1981. 9-12.



Although many of these tales will be unfamiliar to most children, a few, such as "One-Eyes, Two-Eyes, and Three-Eyes," have been included in other collections. Well-known translator Manheim has given the tales a style that preserves the art of the storyteller and reads well aloud. Blegvad's illustrations recreate scenes of medieval life within the context of the tale.

Grimm, Jakob, and Wilhelm Grimm (retold by Donna Diamond). **Rumpelstiltskin**. Illus. by reteller. Holiday House, 1983. 4-8.

A faithful retelling of this original tale of greed is accompanied by pencil drawings that are quite detailed and stylistically photographic. Rumpelstiltskin is portrayed sympathetically, not as a hideous little man, which heightens the story's pathos. The use of white space on pages with text and small illustrations alternating with double-page illustrations make this a beautifully designed book. (Picture book)

Grimm, Jakob, and Wilhelm Grimm (translated by Elizabeth D. Crawford). **The Seven Ravens**. Illus. by Lisbeth Zwerger. William Morrow, 1981. 7-10.

After an unfortunate wish changes her seven brothers into ravens, a maiden sets out to rescue them. At the ends of the earth she encounters the fearsome sun, the hideous moon, and finally the friendly stars, who offer assistance. Illustrations sustain the world of enchantment. (Picture book)

Grimm, Jakob, and Wilhelm Grimm (retold by Wanda Gág). **Wanda Gág's The Six Swans**. Illus. by Margot Tomes. Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1982. 7-10.

Because the king's witch-wife has thrown enchanted shirts over the six princes, they have been changed into swans. Only the princess has escaped her stepmother's treachery, and only she can rescue her brothers. A translation of excellent quality, illustrated with ink and color depictions of important scenes.

Gross, Ruth Belov. **The Girl Who Wouldn't Get Married**. Illus. by Jack Kent. Four Winds Press, 1983. 6-10.

This retelling of the Norwegian tale "The Squire's Bride" is smooth, though simple in word choice and syntax. The illustrations are wonderfully funny, and the humor is enhanced by captions attributing thoughts and dialogue to the characters.

Guy, Rosa. **Mother Crocodile: An Uncle Amadou Tale from Senegal.** Illus. by John Steptoe. Delacorte Press, 1981. 7-14.

A dramatic retelling of this tale from Senegal, West Africa, is highlighted with paintings that convey a mood of revelation. It can be read as a cautionary tale or as a symbolic retelling of the history of Africa. Either way, it pleads that we heed the facts of history. The depth of meaning and scope of action are great; a wide range of readers will react to the book. (Picture book)

Hutton, Warwick, reteller. **The Nose Tree.** Illus. by reteller. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1981. 5-9.

Good fortune is bestowed upon three kind soldiers in this adaptation of an old German story. All is almost lost when they are tricked by a princess-witch. Children will cheer when the witch, in turn, is tricked by the soldiers. Classically beautiful watercolors contribute much to the telling of the tale. Children will take special interest in those illustrations of noses stretching to the horizon. (Picture book)

Isele, Elizabeth, reteller. **The Frog Princess.** Illus. by Michael Hague. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1984. 8 and up.

The truths of bravery, faith, and resourcefulness are revealed in the retelling of this Russian tale. The fate of the Czar's third son is to marry a frog, only to discover her identity as Princess Vasilisa the Wise. Beauty lies in the language and the magical full-color illustrations.

Kennedy, T. A., editor. **The Illustrated Treasury of Fairy Tales.** Grosset & Dunlap, 1982. 6 and up.

This collection of nineteen fairy tales is illustrated by eleven classic illustrators. The variety of style in the illustrations adds to the book and would allow for classroom discussions of different techniques used in illustrating fairy tales. It is a good collection of tales for home or classroom use.

Lang, Andrew, reteller. **Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp.** Illus. by Errol Le Cain. Viking Press, 1981. 6 and up.

A favorite of many generations of children is retold with all its drama and the splendor of a far-off land. Persian-inspired illustrations are richly colored and patterned. The characters have delicate features, and their clothing and jewelry are true to time and place.

Lobel, Anita. **The Straw Maid**. Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1983. 4-7.

An easy-to-read retelling of an old tale about a young girl who outsmarts three robbers and flees with their treasure. Children will chuckle at her means of escape. Finely drawn illustrations evoke another time and place; clothing and furniture exhibit a folk-art influence. (Picture book)

Louie, Ai-Ling, reteller. **Yeh-Shen: A Cinderella Story from China**. Illus. by Ed Young. Philomel Books, 1982. 5-9.

An interesting version of the Cinderella story that predates the well-known European tale by a thousand years. The text flows smoothly, true to the oral tradition. The design of the book complements the tale; pages are divided into panels like a Chinese screen. Each soft watercolor illustration incorporates the fish who befriends Yeh-Shen. Beautiful costumes and jewelry are depicted in vibrant colors. Children's Choices; Teachers' Choices. (Picture book)

Magnus, Erica, adapter. **Old Lars**. Illus. by adapter. Carolrhoda Books, 1984. 4-8.

This retelling of a Norwegian folktale will elicit a chuckle from children at its humorous conclusion. The format and layout of the illustrations and text catch the reader's attention. Full-page, full-color pastel illustrations beautifully depict a wintery Norwegian countryside and Old Lars and his horse gathering wood. A book to enjoy more than once. (Picture book)

Manniche, Lise, translator. **The Prince Who Knew His Fate**. Illus. by translator. Philomel Books, 1981. 7-12.

A scholarly translation of an Egyptian manuscript written three thousand years ago and preserved in the British Museum. It is a wise and fascinating story that introduces children to a culture that is different and yet similar in its literary traditions to our own. The hieroglyphs are included on each page along with illustrations copied from Egyptian artwork from the time when the story took place. An interesting explanation of both text and illustrations follows the story.

Marshak, Samuel, reteller (translated by Thomas P. Whitney). **The Month-Brothers: A Slavic Tale**. Illus. by Diane Stanley. William Morrow, 1983. 8-12.

A Slavic tale in which a young girl is aided by the month-brothers in her attempt to pacify a greedy stepmother and stepsister. The story incorporates the folk tradition of the new year beginning in March. Full-color illustrations depict traditional Eastern European culture.

Mayer, Mercer, reteller. **The Sleeping Beauty.** Illus. by reteller. Macmillan, 1984. 4-9.

The embellishment of the familiar tale adds drama and depth to the story. Background details enhance the Blue Fairy's motives for her cruel gift to the baby princess. Elegant full-color illustrations are influenced by Celtic patterns and art. The book is finely designed with an artistic selection of type, borders, and placement of text on the page. (Picture book)

McKinley, Robin. **The Door in the Hedge.** Greenwillow Books, 1981. 10 and up.

Two original fairy tales and two familiar old tales are contained in this collection. All are skillfully told. Included are "The Stolen Princess," "The Hunting of the Hind," "The Princess and the Frog," and "The Twelve Dancing Princesses."

Mercer, John. **The Stories of Vanishing Peoples.** Illus. by Tony Evora. Allison & Busby, 1982. 9-14.

A collection of folktales and legends of primitive peoples and vanishing cultures including the Pygmies of equatorial Africa, the Bushmen of southern Africa, and several North American Indian tribes. The retellings are simple, true to their oral origins, lively, and interesting. Black-and-white illustrations.

Mikolaycak, Charles, reteller. **Babushka.** Illus. by reteller. Holiday House, 1984. 5-10.

A retelling of an old Russian folktale explaining the plight of Babushka, an old woman who was too busy cleaning to follow the Three Wise Men in search of a baby king. Babushka is still searching for the baby in this tale touched with Christmas magic. The radiant illustrations, with their bright colors and bold patterns, are influenced by Russian folk art. Artistic use of white space enhances the story. (Picture book)

Newton, Patricia Montgomery, adapter. **The Five Sparrows: A Japanese Folktale.** Illus. by adapter. Atheneum, 1982. 6-10.

One of the most famous Oriental contrasts, unselfish kindness versus cruel greed, is exemplified in this adaptation of a Japanese folktale. Two-color illustrations and page decorations carry out both the beauty and the humor of the Japanese village of long ago.

Perrault, Charles (edited by Jennifer Mulherin). **Favorite Fairy Tales**. Grosset & Dunlap, 1983. 6 and up.

Eight tales from the pen of Perrault are presented here. The illustrations are exceptional, taken from early editions of the tales. Introductory material includes information about Perrault's life.

Perrault, Charles (translated by John Bierhorst). **The Glass Slipper: Charles Perrault's Tales of Times Past**. Illus. by Mitchell Miller. Four Winds Press, 1981. All ages.

This exacting translation of Perrault's original eight tales has the ring of the storyteller who told these tales long ago. Included are Perrault's morals, which accompanied each tale. Smudged black-and-white illustrations capture the times and people in a somewhat Gothic manner. They seem touched with the smoke of storytellers' fires from the past.

Perrault, Charles (retold by Lidia Postma). **Tom Thumb**. Illus. by reteller. Schocken Books, 1983. 6-9.

A retelling of the classic tale of Tom Thumb is illustrated with finely drawn, detailed renderings of Tom, his brothers, and the Ogre's family. The Ogre and his daughters are particularly evil looking and hideous, adding to the suspense of the tale. The story is useful for comparison with the tale of Hansel and Gretel, giving children the sense of a common folktale thread. (Picture book)

Pomerantz, Charlotte, reteller. **Whiff, Sniff, Nibble, and Chew: The Gingerbread Boy Retold**. Illus. by Monica Incisa. Greenwillow Books, 1984. 3-7.

The familiar story of the Gingerbread Boy is retold as a catchy rhyme and with some funny contemporary twists. Children will ask to hear the story again and again, enjoying the wordplay and silliness of this rendition. Ink drawings of pudgy people, realistic animals, and a gingerbread boy with a personality are softly washed in red, yellow, and brown; a nice blend of fantasy and reality. (Picture book)

Raychaudhuri, Upendrakishore (translated by William Radice). **The Stupid Tiger and Other Tales**. Illus. by William Rushton. André Deutsch, 1981. 7-11.

A good translation of tales from Bengal, India, that reads well aloud. Included are stories about a jackal, a tiger, a crocodile, and a tailorbird. Most of the tales will likely be unfamiliar to readers.

Sadler, Catherine Edwards, reteller. **Treasure Mountain: Folktales from Southern China.** Illus. by Cheng Mung Yun. Atheneum, 1982. 8 and up.

Six folktales from southern China reflect such traditional values as generosity and contentedness. The careful translation has preserved the art as well as the authenticity of the tales. A single pencil drawing provides each story with the delicate quality of the best Oriental illustration. The book is not limited to storytelling; the individual student will also enjoy reading the stories.

Silverman, Maida. **Anna and the Seven Swans.** Illus. by David Small. William Morrow, 1984. 6-9.

A folktale based on a Baba Yaga tale from Russia. The action-filled, full-color illustrations accurately depict the events as Anna seeks to rescue her little brother from the wicked witch, Baba Yaga.

Stephoe, John. **The Story of Jumping Mouse.** Illus. by author. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1984. 6-9.

A retelling of a tale of the Native Americans of the northern plains. A young mouse journeys to a far-off land, faces many perils, makes many sacrifices, and, because of persistent hope and a frog's magic, is miraculously transformed. The language captures the cadence of Native American poetry. The majesty of the tale is matched by that of the pencil illustrations. All shades of black, white, and gray are used to depict shadow and light, textured terrain, and flora and fauna that seem almost real. *Teachers' Choices.* (Picture book)

Timpanelli, Gioia, reteller. **Tales from the Roof of the World: Folktales of Tibet.** Illus. by Elizabeth Kelly Lockwood. Viking Press, 1984. 10-13.

A retelling of four Tibetan folktales in language alive with the oral tradition, rich detail, and imagery: "They all nodded like barley heads in a strong breeze." Each page is bordered with ink drawings of symbols inspired by Tibetan religious art. The book is suggested for older students because of complex Buddhist symbolism underlying the tales.

Wetterer, Margaret K. **The Giant's Apprentice.** Illus. by Elise Primavera. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1982. 6-9.

This tale of a blacksmith who outwits a giant to get his apprentice back contains descriptive phrases that are good for reading aloud and for holding a listener in suspense. Effective black-and-white illustrations portray the giant and his forge in a way that will appeal to young children.

Wolkstein, Diane, reteller. **The Banza**. Illus. by Marc Brown. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1981. 6-9.

A friendship born from the fear of being lost brings together a little goat and a little tiger in this Haitian tale. When the tiger is reunited with his family, he gives the goat a banjo (*banza*) to protect him, and it does indeed bring the goat a great victory. Boldly colored illustrations capture drama and humor in the story. (Picture book)

Yagawa, Sumiko, reteller (translated by Katherine Paterson). **The Crane Wife**. Illus. by Suekichi Akaba. William Morrow, 1981. 8-12.

Suekichi Akaba uses line and wash on paper so that the texture becomes an important element of the illustration. Open spaces and sparsely drawn figures invite readers to complete the pictures from their imaginations and thus to enter into this haunting tale of the Japanese farmer who grows greedy, loses his innocence, and thereupon loses his lovely crane wife. Teachers' Choices.

Zemach, Margot, reteller. **The Little Red Hen: An Old Story**. Illus. by reteller. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1983. 4-9.

Bright splashes of color enliven the usually energetic, sometimes exhausted, little red hen and her pleasure-seeking neighbors: the goose, the cat, and the pig. Fine humor in the portrayal of character and setting will bring the reader back again and again to share the story, if not the bread. (Picture book)

### Folksongs and Ballads

Bryan, Ashley, collector. **I'm Going to Sing: Black American Spirituals**. Illus. by collector. Atheneum, 1982. 6-12.

Black American spirituals are unique among folksongs of the world, and this presentation of spirituals is unique among books. An introductory explanation by the collector-artist gives the reader a background with which to enjoy the selections. A moving majestic print illustrates each song; the notes were also drawn by the artist. An elegant book. (Picture book)

Bryan, Ashley, compiler. **I'm Going to Sing: Black American Spirituals**, vol. 2. Illus. by compiler. Atheneum, 1982. All ages.

A collection of spirituals—some familiar, others less well known—with the melody line included. Full-page, heavy black-and-white block-print illustrations interpret some of the songs. All are easily sung or taught to groups. Table of contents and introduction.

de Paola, Tomie. **The Friendly Beasts: An Old English Christmas Carol**. Illus. by author. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1981. All ages.

Reverent paintings and hand lettering of the verses maintain the mood of dignity in this retelling of an old English Christmas carol. Quiet joy beams from the faces of the characters, especially those of the children. All graphic elements are excellent, including the quality of the color reproductions. (Picture book)

Stevens, Janet, adapter. **Animal Fair**. Illus. by adapter. Holiday House, 1981. 3-7.

The beasts in this rendition of a familiar song are terribly funny pictures of humans in animal form. An ostrich on roller skates, a monkey on a unicycle, and a hippopotamus with a ukelele are just some of the creatures presented. The song, with simple harmony, is included at the end of the book. (Picture book)

### Myths and Legends

Baker, Betty. **And Me, Coyote!** Illus. by Maria Horvath. Macmillan, 1982. 7-10.

This retelling of creation mythology from Native American tribes in California involves the humorous character of the coyote as well as World Maker and his brother Blind Man. Despite rather simplified prose, the text moves along with a sense of storytelling and humor that is reinforced by the black-and-white linoleum cuts illustrating each story.

Baker, Olaf. **Where the Buffaloes Begin**. Illus. by Stephen Gammell. Frederick Warne, 1981. 8-11.

A legend that appeared in print in *St. Nicholas* has been elaborately illustrated in black and white and reproduced in a large art book format. The total effect is visually arresting. The eerie spirit of this Indian legend is portrayed by shadowy penciled figures, clouds, and moonglow. The use of more white space above the text achieves



the open feeling of prairie skies. The viewer is carried forward by the diagonal pencil strokes, the rhythm of teepees and trees, blowing hair, and the direction of the horse and buffalo. Caldecott Honor Book. (Picture book)

Bawden, Nina. **William Tell**. Illus. by Pascale Allamand. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1981. 6-9.

This easy-to-read text is accompanied by full-color formalized paintings of mountain villages and meadows and of stormy seas. The illustrations enrich this story of the beginnings of Switzerland. The language is alive and interesting while still staying within the vocabulary limitations of young readers. (Picture book)

Baylor, Byrd. **A God on Every Mountain Top: Stories of Southwest Indian Sacred Mountains**. Illus. by Carol Brown. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1981. 9 and up.

Poetic retellings of stories told by Indian tribes of the Southwest about their mountains. The text is strong in line and image, simple and rhythmic. Many black-and-white illustrations reflect the art of the Southwest Indians and the joy of the tales. "People who have looked at sacred mountains all their lives say you always find one mountain that you can't forget."

Bhaktivedanta, A. C. (adapted by Yogeśvara dāsa and Jyotirmayī-devī dāśī). **A Gift of Love: The Story of Sudama Brahmin**. Illus. by Puskāra dāsa. Bala Books, 1982. 10 and up.

The depth of the concepts expressed make this book most suitable for mature readers. This is the story of saintly behavior and friendship rewarded, a presentation of India's traditional cultures. Also recommended is *Gopal: The Invincible*.

Bierhorst, John, editor. **The Hungry Woman: Myths and Legends of the Aztecs**. William Morrow, 1984. 11 and up.

Stories that were repeated for centuries but not written down until after the Spanish conquest of the 1500s give readers a perspective and an understanding of Aztec life not before possible. The book begins with creation myths and ends with legends told about Montezuma's defeat by Cortez and stories told after the conquest. This treasury of beliefs and customs is illustrated with small black-and-white drawings done by Aztec artists who were influenced by their European conquerors. The transformation of a civilization is retold through story and illustrations.

Bierhorst, John, editor (collected by George Berd Grinnell). **The Whistling Skeleton: American Indian Tales of the Supernatural**. Illus. by Robert Andrew Parker. Four Winds Press, 1982. 10 and up.

Nine American Indian tales of the supernatural are included with a comprehensive foreword explaining the sources and how the tales were collected by Grinnell. Black-and-white illustrations maintain the air of magic. The format is handsome and dignified in all elements of design.

de Paola, Tomie, reteller. **The Legend of the Bluebonnet: An Old Tale of Texas**. Illus. by reteller. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1983. 6-12.

A retelling of a Comanche legend explains how the state flower of Texas came to be. Told in simple direct prose, the story of the sacrifice of a young Indian girl is sincere. Children who listen to the story will respond with quiet awe and reverence for the girl's courage. The illustrations are true to the text and burst into glorious blue after the rains come. (Picture book)

Dewey, Ariane. **Pecos Bill**. Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1983. 5-8.

A good introduction to Pecos Bill is provided by this easy-to-read version intended for the young reader. The story also reads aloud well. Full-color illustrations on each page depict the text with accuracy and simplicity. (Picture book)

Evslin, Bernard. **Hercules**. Illus. by Joseph A. Smith. William Morrow, 1984. 10-12.

This contemporary version of the Greek myth of Hercules moves quickly and is easy to read. It is not for young people who already have detailed knowledge of mythology. The contemporary style of dialogue will be a plus for some students and will irritate those who have more background. The black-and-white drawings are realistic, with an appropriate tinge of fantasy.

Fisher, Leonard Everett. **The Olympians: Great Gods and Goddesses of Ancient Greece**. Illus. by author. Holiday House, 1984. 6-11.

This introduction to the Greek Pantheon contains vignettes about each important Olympian, precisely stating characteristics, actions, and relationships to the other gods and goddesses. Large, brightly colored illustrations of each individual Olympian are thickly textured and classically inspired. (Picture book)

Fritz, Jean. **The Good Giants and the Bad Pukwudgies.** Illus. by Tomie de Paola. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1982. 8-10.

A skillfully told folktale of the First People on the Narrow Land (the Wampanoag Indians on Cape Cod) and of the formation of the islands around it. The illustrations convey humor as well as the color and design of an Indian folktale. As children read about the Wampanoag legend, they may have some questions about whether this is the way things really happened. (Picture book)

Goble, Paul. **Buffalo Woman.** Illus. by author. Bradbury Press, 1984. 7-12.

This retelling of an Indian myth conveys the theme "We are all related" and moves rapidly with vivid detail. Goble creates breathtaking visual expanses for the buffalo multitudes as well as pale, cloud-strewn skies that mirror the loneliness of the hero and of the prairie. (Picture book)

Godden, Rumer. **The Dragon of Og.** Illus. by Pauline Baynes. Viking Press, 1981. 8-12.

The story of a gentle dragon is based on an old Scottish legend. Children will enjoy the tricks and turnabouts as Angus Og matches wits with the Dragon of Og. The surprise ending will bring smiles, and the story will teach much about dragons and ancient Scotland. Full-color illustrations with "gilded" borders are reminiscent of those in early Books of Hours.

Harris, Christie. **The Trouble with Adventurers.** Illus. by Douglas Tait. Atheneum, 1982. 9-12.

This collection of five tales of natives of the Pacific Northwest and the story of nineteenth-century Englishman John Jewitt expose some of the less obvious perils adventurers face—the envy of others, confusion about right and wrong, risk of death, failure of spirit, or an inability to settle down once adventures are over. Told with humor, grace, and clarity.

Hastings, Selina. **Sir Gawain and the Green Knight.** Illus. by Juan Wijngaard. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1981. 11 and up.

A retelling that is true to the tone and complexity of the original Arthurian legend. Medieval borders and detailed illustrations add to the total appeal of the book. The story, however, is appropriate for the more mature reader.

Headon, Deirdre. **Knights**. Illus. by Julek Heller. Schocken Books, 1982. 11 and up.

Julek Heller's full-page, full-color illustrations do fine justice to the dozen medieval romances retold in this breathtaking book. Young readers will find no finer introduction to the Age of Chivalry. Numerous intriguing articles on subjects ranging from heraldry to knight hygiene are written and illustrated with great care. The alternation of compelling romance with the fine historical insights detailed in the articles weaves an extraordinary experience for the mature reader.

Highwater, Jamake. **Moonsong Lullaby**. Photographs by Marcia Keegan. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1981. All ages.

A fine blend of a Native American legend-lullaby and photographs of contemporary life. Striking images that depict the Wise Ones seeking herbs and lilies unfolding pale blooms are as poetic as the words that describe them. (Picture book)

Hinojosa, Francisco, adapter. **The Old Lady Who Ate People: Frightening Stories**. Illus. by Leonel Maciel. Little, Brown, 1984. 7-10.

This is a translation of frightening legends from ancient Mexico. Full-page paintings based upon traditional Mexican art accompany each story. Although the stories share a scary theme, they will appeal to young children who will delight in the primitive illustrations. Each tale has a strong, peaceful resolution.

Hodges, Margaret. **If You Had a Horse**. Illus. by D. Benjamin van Steenburgh. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1984. 9-12.

A collection of myths and legends about horses from many different cultures: Arabia, Scandinavia, the United States, Ireland, Germany, Persia. Each is told with the colorful language and style associated with its origins. Black-and-white illustrations highlight the mythical nature of the horses. A book horse lovers will be drawn to and enjoy.

Hutton, Warwick, reteller. **Jonah and the Great Fish**. Illus. by reteller. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1983. All ages.

The familiar story of Jonah's exploits is retold using biblical cadences and language. Watercolors rendered in a classically grand style enhance the drama of the story. Beautiful panoramas, the watery deep, and ancient Nineveh will rivet young readers' attention to the dramatic tale. (Picture book)

Irving, Washington (retold by Morrell Gipson). **Rip Van Winkle**. Illus. by Daniel San Souci. Doubleday, 1984. 6-9.

Gipson's retelling of the Washington Irving classic set in the Catskills along the Hudson Valley combines a mood of mystery with the humor of simple, well-meaning Rip Van Winkle. A generous number of full-color illustrations set the scene for this eighteenth-century American legend.

Kurtycz, Marcos, and Ana García Kobeh, adapters. **Tigers and Oposums: Animal Legends**. Illus. by adapters. Little, Brown, 1984. 9-12.

Six Mexican animal legends are lavishly presented here with graphics that brighten every page.

Laurin, Anne. **Perfect Crane**. Illus. by Charles Mikolaycak. Harper & Row, 1981. 8-11.

A magic short story in which the words are woven into sentences that express first sadness and then joy. Through the crane, readers are moved to feel the meanings of friendship and freedom. Red frames enclose the text and the black-and-brown picture on each page. (Picture book)

Lee, Jeanne M., reteller. **Legend of the Li River**. Illus. by author. Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1983. 7-11.

The Li River is surrounded by strange, needle-like mountains. This legend of how the structures came to be is told in a smooth style and illustrated simply but effectively. (Picture book)

Lee, Jeanne M., reteller. **Legend of the Milky Way**. Illus. by author. Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1982. 6-10.

An ancient Chinese legend about two stars of the Milky Way, Vega and Altair, known as the Weaver star and Cowherd star in Chinese folklore. Full-page color illustrations, simple in style, add to this Chinese folktale. (Picture book)

Luenn, Nancy. **The Dragon Kite**. Illus. by Michael Hague. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1982. 8-11.

A blend of history and fantasy in the story of Ishikawa, a figure from seventeenth-century Japan who stole from the rich to provide for the poor. How he steals the shogun's golden dolphins and how he escapes make for exciting reading. Full-color illustrations contrast Ishikawa's impatience and the kite master's artistic care.

Mayer, Marianna. **The Black Horse**. Illus. by Katie Thamer. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1984. 8-13.

A Celtic folktale filled with ancient symbols. Mayer's retelling is based on a version of the tale collected by J. F. Campbell in the mid-nineteenth century. The language is rich and moving as it describes the relationship between a man and a magical wild horse. Glorious full-page paintings and rich borders illustrate the story.

McDermott, Gerald, reteller. **Daughter of Earth: A Roman Myth**. Illus. by reteller. Delacorte Press, 1984. 7-11.

Vibrant colors fill the pages of this account of Ceres and Proserpina. The text reads simply enough for even younger readers to enjoy and understand this myth. Intense, dark colors personify the underworld; light, bright colors the earth. The use of both gives a dramatic effect to the illustrations and sets the mood for the story. (Picture book)

Otsuka, Yuzo, reteller. **Suho and the White Horse: A Legend of Mongolia**. Illus. by Suekichi Akaba. Viking Press, 1981. 8-12.

A smooth retelling of the legend about how the Mongolian horse-head fiddles came to be. The strength and poignancy of the story are more than matched by the bold use of line to achieve a sense of rhythm in the illustrations. (Picture book)

Riordan, James. **Tales of King Arthur**. Illus. by Victor Ambrus. Rand McNally, 1982. 8 and up.

These exciting stories of the legendary English hero have been well researched from many sources; together, they present the whole story of Arthur, his knights, and his guests. Grand, brightly colored illustrations with lavish attention to historically accurate detail make the medieval era and epic characters come to life.

Robinson, Gail, reteller. **Raven, the Trickster: Legends of the North American Indians**. Illus. by Joanna Troughton. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1982. 10-12.

The nine stories in this collection are retold in a style that reflects the rhythm of the oral tradition. All center on the character of Raven, a clever trickster who loves to get the better of others but who is always willing to help those in danger or distress. Pen-and-ink illustrations capture the mood of each tale and display some of the visual art associated with the Pacific Northwest tribes.

- Rounds, Glen. **Mr. Yowder and the Train Robbers.** Illus. by author. Holiday House, 1981. 3-11.

The tall tale was never better than this straight-faced telling. Exaggerations are helped along with illustrations, such as snakes rescuing their hero. And best of all, the ending is a real punch line—satire that stings the idea of pretentiousness. Even when reading it alone, the reader wants to read it aloud. The book works especially well for those in middle grades or older.

- Rounds, Glen. **Mr. Yowder and the Windwagon.** Illus. by author. Holiday House, 1983. 8-11.

Xenon Zebulon Yowder sets masts and sails on the prairie schooners headed for Oregon, California, and Santa Fe—a wind of truth blown into a comic adventure by an author who should always be read aloud and whose old-time sketches, exactly right, might have been etched by nail on a barrelhead. (Picture book)

- San Souci, Robert D. **Song of Sedna.** Illus. by Daniel San Souci. Doubleday, 1981. 9-12.

A telling of the Eskimo legend of how Sedna, an Eskimo maiden, became the goddess of the sea. The illustrations beautifully capture the icy landscape as well as the drama of the story. The text is generally good but occasionally marred by short, choppy sentences. Children's Choices. (Picture book)

- Singer, Isaac Bashevis. **The Golem.** Illus. by Uri Shulevitz. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1982. 10 and up.

The mysterious and spiritual meaning of the tale is vivid in the style of this master storyteller. It seems right not to know exactly what happens. The artwork is completely in tune with the text; black-and-white drawings are inspirational and prod the imagination.

- Wood, Marion. **Spirits, Heroes, and Hunters from North American Indian Mythology.** Illus. by John Sibbick. Schocken Books, 1982. 10 and up.

Retellings from original sources of creation myths, explanation tales, and animal trickster tales are accompanied by large, realistic color paintings and black-and-white drawings. The language used in retelling is characterized by a mature tension and beauty. Some of the stories are complex and would appeal to advanced readers.

Yep, Laurence. **Dragon of the Lost Sea.** Harper & Row, 1982. 10-12.

This fantasy is an extension of a Chinese myth. Adventure abounds, symbolism is striking, and the pace builds so that the reader is immersed in suspense. Good readers will be fascinated and not overwhelmed by content, style, or reading difficulty.

### Nursery Rhymes

de Paola, Tomie. **The Comic Adventures of Old Mother Hubbard and Her Dog.** Illus. by author. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1981. 3-7.

The more you read and look at this, the more you discover in the illustrations. Not only is there humor in the pictures of this familiar nursery rhyme, but there also is humor in the use of borders on each page to depict other nursery rhymes. Children will find it fun to recognize and recite the other rhymes, too.

Hale, Sara Josepha. **Mary Had a Little Lamb.** Illus. by Tomie de Paola. Holiday House, 1984. 3-7.

Full-color folk art depicts the original Newport, New Hampshire, setting for this famous nineteenth-century nursery rhyme. Double-page illustrations feature Mary's daily activities with her ever-constant lamb. The complete original poem is reprinted with music and a note about its background. (Picture book)

### Additional Traditional Literature

Aesop. *The Lion and the Mouse.* Illus. by Ed Young. Doubleday, 1970. 7-10.

Aliki. *Go Tell Aunt Rhody.* Macmillan, 1968. All ages.

Asbjørnsen, Peter C., and Jorgen E. Moe. *East O' the Sun and West O' the Moon.* Illus. by Kay Nielsen. Doubleday, 1922. 9-12.

Asbjørnsen, Peter C., and Jorgen E. Moe. *The Three Billy Goats Gruff.* Illus. by Marcia Brown. Harcourt, Brace & World, 1957. 4-8.

Baldwin, James. *The Story of Siegfried.* Illus. by Peter Hurd. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1931. 12 and up.

Belting, Natalia. *The Sun Is a Golden Earring.* Illus. by Bernarda Bryson. Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1962. 8-12.

Bierhorst, John. *A Cry from the Earth: Music of the North American Indians.* Illus. by author. Four Winds Press, 1979. 10 and up.



- Bierhorst, John, editor (compiled by Edward S. Curtis). *The Girl Who Married a Ghost and Other Tales from the North American Indian*. Photographs by compiler. Four Winds Press, 1978. 10 and up.
- Boni, Margaret Bradford, and Norman Lloyd. *Fireside Book of Folk Songs*. Illus. by Alice and Martin Provensen. Simon and Schuster, 1966. 10 and up.
- Brown, Marcia. *Once a Mouse*. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1961. 5-8.
- Bryan, Ashley, collector. *Walk Together Children: Black American Spirituals*. Illus. by collector. Atheneum, 1974. 8-12.
- Bryson, Bernarda. *Gilgamesh: Man's First Story*. Illus. by author. Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1967. 6-11.
- Chase, Richard. *The Jack Tales*. Illus. by Berkeley Williams, Jr. Houghton Mifflin, 1943. 8-12.
- Clark, Ann Nolan. *In the Land of the Small Dragon. A Vietnamese Folktale*. Illus. by Tony Chen. Viking Press, 1979. 6-9.
- Colum, Padraic. *The Children of Odin: The Book of Northern Myths*. Illus. by Willy Pogany. Macmillan, 1962. 10-14.
- Colum, Padraic. *The Children's Homer: The Adventures of Odysseus and the Tale of Troy*. Illus. by Willy Pogany. Macmillan, 1962. 10-12.
- Colum., Padraic. *The Golden Fleece and the Heroes Who Lived before Achilles*. Illus. by Willy Pogany. Macmillan, 1962. 10-14.
- Cooney, Barbara, illustrator. *The Courtship, Merry Marriage and Feast of Cock Robin and Jennie Wren, to Which Has Been Added the Doleful Death of Cock Robin*. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1965. 3-8.
- Courlander, Harold. *The Piece of Fire and Other Haitian Tales*. Illus. by Beth and Joe Krush. Harcourt, Brace & World, 1964. 9-12.
- Courlander, Harold, and Wolf Leslau. *The Fire on the Mountain and Other Ethiopian Stories*. Illus. by Robert W. Kane. Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1950. 9-12.
- D' Aulaire, Ingri, and Edgar Parin D' Aulaire. *Norse Gods and Giants*. Illus. by authors. Doubleday, 1967. 9-12.
- Dawood, N. J., reteller. *Tales from the Arabian Nights*. Illus. by Ed Young. Doubleday, 1978. 9 and up.
- Dayrell, Elphinstone. *Why the Sun and Moon Live in the Sky*. Illus. by Blair Lent. Houghton Mifflin, 1968. 5-8.
- de Angeli, Marguerite. *Marguerite de Angeli's Book of Nursery and Mother Goose Rhymes*. Illus. by author. Doubleday, 1979. 3-8.
- de Paola, Tomie, reteller. *The Clown of God*. Illus. by reteller. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1978. All ages.
- de Paola, Tomie, reteller. *Strega Nona: An Old Tale Retold*. Illus. by reteller. Prentice-Hall, 1975. 3-9.

- Deutsch, Babette. *The Heroes of the Kalevala*. Illus. by Fritz Eichenberg. Julian Messner, 1940. 12 and up.
- Gaer, Joseph. *The Fables of India*. Illus. by Randy Monk. Little, Brown, 1955. 10 and up.
- Ginsburg, Mirra, reteller. *Three Rolls and One Doughnut: Fables from Russia*. Illus. by Anita Lobel. Dial Press, 1970. 6-9.
- Grimm, Jakob, and Wilhelm Grimm. *The Seven Ravens*. Illus. by Felix Hoffman. Harcourt, Brace & World, 1963. 5-8.
- Grimm, Jakob, and Wilhelm Grimm (translated by Paul Heins). *Snow White*. Illus. by Trina Schart Hyman. Little, Brown, 1974. 6-8.
- Grimm, Jakob, and Wilhelm Grimm (translated by Randall Jarrell). *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs: A Tale from the Brothers Grimm*. Illus. by Nancy Eckholm Burkert. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1972. 6-12.
- Harris, Christie. *Once upon a Totem*. Illus. by John Fraser Mills. Atheneum, 1963. 9-12.
- Jacobs, Joseph, editor. *English Folk and Fairy Tales*. Illus. by John D. Batten. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1904. 9-14.
- La Fontaine, Jean de. *The North Wind and the Sun*. Illus. by Brian Wildsmith. Franklin Watts, 1963. 4-8.
- Lang, Andrew (edited by Kathleen Lines). *The Rainbow Fairy Book: A Selection of Outstanding Fairy Tales from the Color Fairy Books*. Illus. by Margery Gill. Schocken Books, 1977. 7-10.
- McDermott, Gerald, reteller. *Anansi the Spider: A Tale from the Ashanti*. Illus. by reteller. Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1972. 4-8.
- Macleod, Mary. *The Book of King Arthur and His Noble Knights: Stories from Sir Thomas Malory's "Morte d'Arthur."* Illus. by Henry C. Pitz. J. B. Lippincott, 1949. 10 and up.
- Mosel, Arlene. *Tikki Tikki Tembo*. Illus. by Blair Lent. Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1968. 6-8.
- Perrault, Charles. *Cinderella*. Illus. by Marcia Brown. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1954. 9 and up.
- Provinsen, Alice, and Martin Provinsen, compilers. *The Mother Goose Book*. Illus. by compilers. Random House, 1976. 4-8.
- Pyle, Howard. *Some Merry Adventures of Robin Hood*, rev. ed. Illus. by author. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1954. 9-14.
- Pyle, Howard. *Story of King Arthur and His Knights*. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1903. 12 and up.
- Seeger, Ruth C. *American Folksongs for Children*. Illus. by Barbara Cooney. Doubleday, 1948. All ages.
- Singer, Isaac Bashevis. *Zlath the Goat and Other Stories*. Illus. by Maurice Sendak. Harper & Row, 1966. 6-12.

- Spier, Peter. *Noah's Ark*. Illus. by author. Doubleday, 1977. 6-10.
- Wildsmith, Brian. *Brian Wildsmith's Mother Goose*. Illus. by author. Franklin Watts, 1965. 3-8.
- Yolen, Jane. *The Emperor and the Kite*. Illus. by Ed Young. William Collins, 1967. 6-11.
- Zemach, Harve. *Duffy and the Devil*. Illus. by Margot Zemach. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1973. 8 and up.
- Zemach, Margot, reteller. *Hush, Little Baby*. Illus. by reteller. E. P. Dutton, 1976. 3-5.

# Modern Fantasy

## Animal Fantasy

Aliki. **Use Your Head, Dear.** Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1983. 5-7.

Charles, the lovable alligator from *Keep Your Mouth Closed, Dear*, shows up again in this new book, where he struggles to "use his head" as his mother has admonished. Charles unwittingly seems either to create or stumble into problems, but an unusual birthday gift finally inspires him to become a thinker. Whimsical illustrations and a plot with which young readers should identify make the book a pleaser. (Picture book)

Allard, Harry. **There's a Party at Mona's Tonight.** Illus. by James Marshall. Doubleday, 1981. All ages.

A persevering and persistent Potter Pig is determined not to miss out on Mona Mouse's party, even though he hasn't been invited. Readers will enjoy the creative disguises Potter dreams up to try and crash the party. Marshall's wacky and rollicking illustrations add to the fun. Children's Choices. (Picture book)

Asch, Frank. **Goodnight Horsey.** Illus. by author. Prentice-Hall, 1981. 2-5.

A warm father-daughter adventure where a request for a game of "horsey" leads to a fantastic ride and a sleepy surprise. Whimsical watercolor and line illustrations, presenting a child's point of view, extend the simple plot, making an ordinary event magical. A gentle bedtime story for preschoolers. (Picture book)

Asch, Frank. **Happy Birthday, Moon.** Illus. by author. Prentice-Hall, 1982. 4-6.

One night Bear stares up in the sky and decides that the golden moon deserves a Christmas present. Just what to give is a problem, but Bear resolves it in an unexpectedly funny conversation with

the moon. Attractive, simple illustrations are dominated by rich shades of blue, green, and brown. Children's Choices. (Picture book)

Asch, Frank. **Just Like Daddy.** Illus. by author. Prentice-Hall, 1981. 2-5.

All day long Little Bear tries to do everything just like Daddy—until they go fishing. The simple, witty story line, together with the softly colored, well-defined illustrations, makes this a book well suited for preschoolers. (Picture book)

Asch, Frank. **Mooncake.** Illus. by author. Prentice-Hall, 1983. 4-6.

The golden moon suspended in a deep blue sky is too tempting for Bear, who decides he would like a bite of it. A rocket is built, but Bear falls asleep before launching. When he awakens in a snowy landscape, Bear is convinced he has reached his destination. A gently funny story. Unfortunately, the color of the snowy landscape is for some reason gray-green, a bit distracting; but the story is still charming. Children's Choices. (Picture book)

Asch, Frank. **Skyfire.** Illus. by author. Prentice-Hall, 1984. 3-7.

Bear, seeing a rainbow for the first time, mistakes it for a sky fire and rushes to extinguish the blaze. Even his friend Bird can't convince him that what he sees is actually a rainbow. Pastel paintings combine effectively with the text to bring Bear's adventure to life. (Picture book)

Baker, Alan. **Benjamin's Book.** Illus. by author. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1982. 3-8.

A hamster in glasses tries to eradicate a pawprint from a clean white page. Children will laugh at his attempts to remedy the situation and will sympathize with his predicament. A surprise humorous ending completes the circular story structure. Realistically styled and colored illustrations make Benjamin seem possible, even probable. (Picture book)

Barklem, Jill. **The Secret Staircase.** Illus. by author. Philomel Books, 1983. 6-10.

As the mice of Brambly Hedge prepare for a midwinter celebration, Primrose and Wilfred discover a secret staircase, a perfect place to play. Intricate, beautiful full-color illustrations need careful

study for complete appreciation. The story reads aloud well. (Picture book)

Berenstain, Stan, and Jan Berenstain. **The Berenstain Bears in the Dark.** Illus. by authors. Random House, 1982. 5-8.

Sister Bear chooses storybooks in the library, but Brother Bear's interests have turned to scary mysteries. After Brother reads a scary mystery aloud, Sister Bear learns about imagination and fear of the dark. Colorful cartoon illustrations add to both the scary and the humorous incidents right up to the surprise ending. Children's Choices. (Picture book)

Boegehold, Betty. **Chipper's Choices.** Illus. by Jim Arnosky. Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1981. 4-8.

Five short animal stories about a chipmunk and his four friends. Riddles and poems about the animals are included at the end of each story. Black-and-white as well as softly colored illustrations enhance the text. The book is appropriate for either reading aloud or for silent reading by young readers.

Boegehold, Betty. **In the Castle of Cats.** Illus. by Jan Brett. Unicorn Books, 1981. 4-9.

Miou watches her older cat friends leave the castle; she worries what will happen to them in the wide world and, worse, what will happen to her when her time comes to leave. Good for prompting discussion about fears of experiencing the unknown. Children's Choices.

Bond, Felicia. **Mary Betty Lizzie McNutt's Birthday.** Illus. by author. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1983. 1-6.

An economical text describes how a happy pig family celebrates a mother's birthday simply but well in this book designed for small children's hands. Tiny, full-color illustrations add plenty of humorous detail and capture the festive mood perfectly. (Picture book)

Bond, Felicia. **Poinsettia and the Firefighters.** Illus. by author. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1984. 4-8.

Fear of the dark is treated in a comforting way in this story of a young pig whose sleeplessness helped detect a fire. The paintings are well designed to depict fears associated with sounds at night. (Picture book)

Brett, Jan. **Fritz and the Beautiful Horses**. Illus. by author. Houghton Mifflin, 1981. 4-8.

Fritz, a dependable, hard-working pony who is excluded from the world of the walled city and its beautiful horses, rescues the children of the city and becomes their hero. In this satisfying story, the sure-footed and kind find a place for themselves alongside the beautiful. Elegant full-color artwork lends rich detail and a folk-tale-like quality to the text. Children's Choices. (Picture book)

Brown, Marc, and Laurene Krasny Brown. **The Bionic Bunny Show**. Illus. by Marc Brown. Atlantic Monthly Press Books, 1984. 7-10.

An inside look at a television studio as an ordinary rabbit portrays the character of Bionic Bunny in a serialized program. The text and illustrations are full of humor, both subtle and obvious. The endpapers carry the entire Bionic Bunny program, and the appendix explains television terms. (Picture book)

Brown, Margaret Wise. **Little Fur Family**. Illus. by Garth Williams. Harper & Row, 1984. 3-8.

The tiny size of the book and its fake fur covering are very appealing, as is the story of the tiny family told in rhyme. Illustrations in full color give personality to the characters and are filled with minute details that encourage close inspection by young readers. First published in 1946. (Picture book)

Buchwald, Emilie. **Floramel and Esteban**. Illus. by Charles Robinson. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1982. 8-11.

An island setting in a warm climate is where the reader meets Floramel, a cow, and Esteban, an egret. They describe the way they help each other in a logical fashion. Music is an important part of the plot development, and cadence is noticeable in the prose. Black-and-white drawings interpret details of place and action. The make-believe is convincing, with a happy ending.

Calhoun, Mary. **Hot-Air Henry**. Illus. by Erick Ingraham. William Morrow, 1981. 5-10.

Henry, the star of *The Cross-Country Cat*, returns. This time he tries a hot-air balloon adventure and learns the fundamentals of ballooning and the perils of solo flights. Predominantly blue illustrations show scenes from several perspectives, making the sense of adventure even more real. (Picture book)

Carle, Eric. **The Mixed-Up Chameleon.** Illus. by author. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1984. 4-7.

Young children will chuckle at the humorous chameleon who wishes for and takes on characteristics of other animals. Vibrantly colored illustrations of chameleons fill each page. Good for reading aloud. (Picture book)

Carlson, Nancy. **Bunnies and Their Hobbies.** Illus. by author. Carolrhoda Books, 1984. 3-7.

A simple text describes the different hobbies that bunnies pursue "after a long day at work." Full-color, cleverly detailed illustrations make these active bunnies irresistible. (Picture book)

Carlson, Natalie Savage. **Marie Louise and Christophe at the Carnival.** Illus. by Jose Aruego and Ariane Dewey. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1981. 3-7.

The snake and mongoose who have a knack for finding trouble and narrowly escaping it are back in another sequel. Magic that isn't really magic, a nine-ounce pound cake, and other humorous details bring smiles. Brightly colored illustrations give much personality to the funny characters.

Cazet, Denys. **Christmas Moon.** Illus. by author. Bradbury Press, 1984. 4-7.

Patrick, a bunny, misses Grandpa on Christmas Eve, but his mother comforts him by helping him remember happy times with Grandpa. Patrick realizes that Grandpa taught him how to make others happy, and he decides to use what he learned on Christmas. A comforting story complemented by large free-flowing drawings in warm colors. (Picture book)

Cazet, Denys. **"You Make the Angels Cry."** Illus. by author. Bradbury Press, 1983. 3-7.

When rain begins to fall after his mother scolds him, Albert is convinced that he made the angels cry. Vibrant, framed watercolor illustrations capture the emotions and personalities of the animal characters in this story that reassures readers that angry parents still love their children. The spare, concise text flows smoothly and gracefully. (Picture book)

Chorao, Kay. **Kate's Car.** Illus. by author. E. P. Dutton, 1982. 2-5.



When Kate the elephant demands a car, her whole family misunderstands and tells her that she is too small to drive a big, dangerous car. Kate is finally content when a playmate returns her toy car. Kate's further adventures appear in *Kate's Box* and *Kate's Snowman*. (Picture book)

Christelow, Eileen. **Henry and the Dragon**. Illus. by author. Clarion Books, 1984. 4-7.

Children who have fears of the dark will relate to this story of a little rabbit who overcomes his fear of dragons and even frightens his parents with his dragon imitation. The drawings sustain a mood of suspense. (Picture book)

Christelow, Eileen. **Mr. Murphy's Marvelous Invention**. Illus. by author. Clarion Books, 1983. 4-7.

A funny, fast-paced story of Mr. Murphy's contrary birthday contraption. Instead of being a housekeeping miracle, the machine makes laundry soup and hangs the dinner on the line to dry. Laugh-out-loud pen-and-ink illustrations are colored in various intensities of orange, perfect for pig characters. (Picture book)

Cleary, Beverly. **Ralph S. Mouse**. Illus. by Paul O. Zelinsky. William Morrow, 1982. 8-11.

In this sequel to *Runaway Ralph*, Ralph loses his much-prized motorcycle but gains a fast Laser XL7 sports car. During his visit to school, a clever Ralph observes good and bad traits of humans and detects some interesting similarities between mice and people.

Clifford, Sandy. **The Roquefort Gang**. Illus. by author. Parnassus Press, 1981. 8-11.

The tenderheartedness of three mice emerges from beneath tough exteriors as they come to care for and help find two missing baby mice. A delightful mouse world created by words and tiny pen drawings will especially appeal to children who love animal fantasy.

Clymer, Ted, and Miska Miles. **Horse and the Bad Morning**. Illus. by Leslie Morrill. Unicorn Books, 1982. 3-8.

Horse's desire to see something different instead of the "same old things I see every day" leads to some imaginative problem solving by his friends. Children will like being in on the secret that, contrary to what the animals think, the barn really didn't move.

Good dialogue and strong, realistic pencil drawings enhance a humorous, well-told story.

Cole, Brock. **Nothing But a Pig.** Illus. by author. Doubleday, 1981. 6-9.

Misunderstandings cause a poor man and his pig to sever their good relationship. Confusion results when the pig is mistaken for a well-dressed man. This funny story is enhanced by comical full-color illustrations. (Picture book)

Coombs, Patricia. **The Magician and McTree.** Illus. by author. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1984. 6-10.

A humorous story of McTree the talking cat and his adventures when he forgets the magician's warning not to tell anyone he can talk. Younger listeners might get lost in the story as there are some subtle humor and some terms that might need explaining. Illustrations in soft colors help tell the tale.

Cooper, Jacqueline. **Angus and the Mona Lisa.** Illus. by author. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1981. 4-7.

A lively story of a super-sleuth cat who outsmarts some French art thieves. The drawings of France are done in an impressionistic, primitive style reminiscent of those of Ludwig Bemelmans. Much energy and humor are contained in both the story and pictures. (Picture book)

Corbet, W. J. **The Song of Pentecost.** Illus. by Martin Ursell. E. P. Dutton, 1983. 10 and up.

This English animal tale with a variety of well-drawn characters is filled with suspense, humor, and adventure. The saga centers on the journey of a tribe, the new Pentecost, whose survival depends upon a little, young, wise, and courageous mouse and concludes with a warm all's-well ending. Teachers' Choices; Whitebread Award.

Da Rif, Andrea. **The Blueberry Cake That Little Fox Baked.** Illus. by author. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1984. 3-5.

Little Fox mistakes Blueberry Day for his mother's birthday. The result of that mistake will delight and satisfy young children. (Picture book)

Davidson, Amanda. **Teddy at the Seashore.** Illus. by author. Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1984. 3-5.

A lonely teddy bear visits the beach. The very simple text is expanded through appealing color-washed line drawings. The addition of details in the illustrations invites child-adult interaction. (Picture book)

de Brunhoff, Jean, and Laurent de Brunhoff. **Babar's Anniversary Album.** Illus. by authors. Random House, 1981. 4 and up.

Six favorite tales are included in this anniversary edition of Babar stories, but the reader should be aware that the stories are abridged and in manuscript type. The illustrations are from the original publications. Valuable information, complete with photographs of the de Brunhoff family, is included in the introduction by Maurice Sendak. (Picture book)

Delton, Judy. **Duck Goes Fishing.** Illus. by Lynn Munsinger. Albert Whitman, 1983. 4-8.

Duck joins Fox and Owl on a fishing trip and causes a few catastrophes. The reader will chuckle at the humorous events, but the expressions on the faces of Fox and Owl skillfully relay their frustrations. Detailed black, blue, and white ink and paint illustrations.

Demarest, Chris L. **Benedict Finds a Home.** Illus. by author. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1982. 3-5.

A well-controlled sequence of events in the text and illustrations moves Benedict from his crowded nest to other possible places to live. The tale can only end with Benedict returning to his old home. The endpapers are a panorama of the scene of events. The illustrations make fine use of color and space. (Picture book)

Demarest, Chris L. **Clemens' Kingdom.** Illus. by author. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1983. 4-7.

Having never been inside the public library h. guards, Clemens the stone lion decides to have a look at his kingdom to see if it's worth guarding, much to the surprise and delight of its youthful patrons. The bright and whimsical watercolor illustrations nicely complement the text. Children's Choices. (Picture book)

Dorros, Arthur. **Alligator Shoes.** Illus. by author. E. P. Dutton, 1982. 3-5.

Alvin the Alligator decides to look for a pair of shoes. The comical

illustrations place Alvin in costumes appropriate to different shoe styles. This cheerful story is easy to read, and the small, square book fits comfortably into little hands. (Picture book)

Erickson, Russell E. **Warton and the Castaways**. Illus. by Lawrence Di Fiori. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1982. 8-12.

Another funny adventure story about two toad brothers, Warton and Morton, who have a penchant for trouble but who always escape in the end. This time they find themselves adrift on a mulberry tree with a hungry raccoon in a fast-paced story with many comic twists and a surprise ending. The illustrations are lively and provide details of the toads' adventures.

Ernst, Lisa Campbell. **The Prize Pig Surprise**. Illus. by author. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1984. 6-9.

Burton's greediness almost leads him into being the pig at the pig roast until a smaller pig teaches him to hunt truffles. Black-and-white ink drawings are small and detailed; they are most effective when the book is used in small groups or singly. Dark borders and dark print make this a somber-looking but elegant book. (Picture book)

Forrester, Victoria. **The Magnificent Moo**. Illus. by author. Atheneum, 1983. 3-5.

A simple tale of a cow unnerved by her own "Moo." By trading with Cat, she initiates a series of trades that continues until Bee finally leaves the "Moo" on a flower for Cow to eat. Delicate line drawings give humorous personalities to the animals. Preschool audiences will enjoy hearing their favorite animal sounds. (Picture book)

Freschet, Berniece. **Bernard and the Catnip Caper**. Illus. by Gina Freschet. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1981. 5-9.

This plot is fast paced and the characters humorous enough to carry the story along to a satisfying ending. The pencil drawings add zest to the telling.

Gackenbach, Dick. **The Dog and the Deep Dark Woods**. Illus. by author. Harper & Row, 1984. 5-8.

The animals of the deep dark woods come upon an unfamiliar item made by humans and decide for themselves what its use is. When the dog explains the actual use, he is laughed out of the

woods, and so he decides to live with people forever. The humor in both the text and the illustrations is readily understood. Clear, easy-to-see illustrations make the book good for reading aloud. (Picture book)

Gackenbach, Dick. **Mr. Wink and His Shadow**. Ned. Illus. by author. Harper & Row, 1983. 4-8.

This funny story about a short and stocky man and his lanky shadow is based on some common notions about shadows that are exaggerated and carried to comic but logical ends. Children will enjoy the quarreling twosome and the warm-hearted ending. What do shadows do on rainy days? The final illustration reveals the answer for readers but not for Mr. Wink. (Picture book)

Gage, Wilson. **The Crow and Mrs. Gaddy**. Illus. by Marilyn Hafner. Greenwillow Books, 1984. 6-9.

This humorous story of the consequences of revenge will keep children laughing as the crow's and Mrs. Gaddy's retaliation escalates. It's even funnier because the two never seem to learn their lesson. Pen-and-ink illustrations in shades of blue and brown depict the pudgy Mrs. Gaddy and the quirky crow and extend the tale's humor.

Galdone, Paul. **The Turtle and the Monkey**. Illus. by author. Clarion Books, 1983. 4-7.

A cheerful, clever tale about a trickster who is out-tricked. Lively, colorful, full-page pictures illustrate this humorous story of a turtle's triumph by outwitting a greedy, impatient monkey. Exceptionally fine integration of text and illustration occurs on every page in this oversized book. (Picture book)

Geisert, Arthur. **Pa's Balloon and Other Pig Tales**. Illus. by author. Houghton Mifflin, 1984. 6-9.

These tales of the pig family's escapades have enough suspense to captivate readers. The small book is illustrated with charming etchings that capture the essence of the tension and the humor. (Picture book)

Ginsburg, Mirra. **Across the Stream**. Illus. by Nancy Tafuri. Greenwillow Books, 1982. 1-5.

A true picture book where a simple, rhyming text and bright, bold illustrations tell the story of a hen and her chicks being rescued from "a bad dream." Children will applaud the clever escape that

leaves the bad dream, a fox, on the far side of the stream. Tiny black illustrations on each left-hand page will give children something to search for and ponder. (Picture book)

Gordon, Margaret. **Wilberforce Goes on a Picnic**. Illus. by author. William Morrow, 1982. 3-6.

Wilberforce, a mischievous little bear, and his family go to the country for a picnic. The simple text is illustrated with humorous full-color pictures that add extra details to the story.

Greene, Carol. **Hinny Winny Bunco**. Illus. by Jeanette Winter. Harper & Row, 1982. 5-8.

Hinny Bunco, a rabbit farmer, is overworked and mistreated by his brother until he is given a fiddle by a mysterious stranger and discovers his musical talent. The vocabulary is more simply constructed than the format suggests. Readers will enjoy the repetitive patterns in the story. (Picture book)

Griffith, Helen V. **Alex Remembers**. Illus. by Donald Carrick. Greenwillow Books, 1983. 7-10.

Text and illustrations mesh perfectly in this story of a cat and a dog. The autumn moon makes them reminisce about other times; the images, sounds, and smells that are evoked create a gripping tale. (Picture book)

Griffith, Helen V. **More Alex and the Cat**. Illus. by Donald Carrick. Greenwillow Books, 1983. 7-11.

A wonderful read-aloud book. Here, Alex the dog goes through some phases the cat can't quite accept. Great understated humor.

Hall, Malcolm. **Edward, Benjamin, and Butter**. Illus. by Tomie de Paola. Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1981. 4-8.

Edward Tapir is always playing practical jokes on his sobersided friend, Benjamin Horse, so he tries another joke when he brings Benjamin butter for his oatcakes. When the butter disappears, Benjamin sighs and moans right up to his very own surprise. Amusing illustrations have just the right expressions for sighs, for moans, and especially for surprises. Children's Choices.

Hiller, Catherine. **Abracatabby**. Illus. by Victoria de Larrea. Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1981. 4-8.

The appeal of this easy-to-read fantasy is that Abracatabby the cat is magical only to Adam, his young owner. The story ends in just

the right way for keeping a secret. Humorous yet warm illustrations will appeal to children.

Hoban, Lillian. **Arthur's Funny Money.** Illus. by author. Harper Trophy Books, 1981. 6-8.

Arthur the chimp is back, and this time his problems center around earning enough money to buy a t-shirt and cap for his *Far Out Frisbees* team. Number problems are sprinkled throughout this easy-to-read book as Arthur and his sister Violet try to make a profit with a bike-washing scheme. Readers are provided with lots of fun and some challenge in this book where story problems are explored in a meaningful context. Children's Choices.

Hoban, Lillian. **No, No, Sammy Crow.** Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1981. 3-8.

A comic tale that will appeal to young children, especially those with brothers and sisters. Sibling conflicts are portrayed with true insight. The cooperation of the brother and sister crow at the end of the story leads to a very logical rite of passage for the little crow—he is now ready for school. Hoban's illustrations add to the humor of the story.

Holabird, Katharine. **Angelina Ballerina.** Illus. by Helen Craig. Clarkson N. Potter, 1983. 4-8.

Angelina mouse's passion for dancing causes problems at home and at school until she enrolls in Miss Lily's School of Dance, where her energy, enthusiasm, and talent are properly channeled. Then, after much dedication and hard work, Angelina indeed does become a ballerina.

Howe, James. **Morgan's Zoo.** Illus. by Leslie Morrill. Atheneum, 1984. 9-12.

When Morgan, his friends, and the animals at the zoo try to keep the city from closing down the zoo, they end up solving a mystery. Animals with distinctive personalities add a touch of humor. There is much suspense in the plot.

Hurd, Thacher. **Mama Don't Allow.** Illus. by author. Harper & Row, 1984. 3-8.

The Swamp Band is a lively group of jazz-playing animals who play loud and long. In a story that has some surprises for enthusiastic young readers, the band members enjoy themselves playing at the Alligator Ball—until they discover they are on the menu as well.

The text has a strong musical element, and the illustrations are in vibrant, "loud" colors. The book is based on the song "Mama Don't Allow." (Picture book)

Hurd, Thacher. **Mystery on the Docks.** Illus. by author. Harper & Row, 1983. 4-7.

This action-packed mystery will really appeal to children, who will enjoy the interesting characters, brightly colored illustrations, and swashbuckling ending. The illustrations and text are complementary, setting the mood and describing characters and events harmoniously. (Picture book)

Keller, Holly. **Cromwell's Glasses.** Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1982. 3-5.

The other young rabbits are frustrated with the nearsighted Cromwell, but they aren't ready to accept his new glasses either. When they see that Cromwell no longer gets lost or mixed up or stumbles over things, they all play together happily. (Picture book)

Keller, Holly. **Geraldine's Blanket.** Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1984. 3-5.

Geraldine is a young pig, but her attachment to her blanket will be as familiar to children as will her parents' attempts to replace it. In the end, Geraldine achieves a satisfying solution to the problem. (Picture book)

Keller, Holly. **Will It Rain?** Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1984. 4-7.

As rain threatens, the animals living by the pond scurry for shelter. Simple full-color illustrations depict the animals' activities. The text flows smoothly, containing descriptive adjectives and verbs to which young children can easily relate.

Kennedy, Richard. **Song of the Horse.** Illus. by Marcia Sewall. Unicorn Books, 1981. 7-12.

Poetic prose tells the urgent, vigorous song of a horse through the voice of a girl who feels what the horse wants to say. The book moves swiftly into an imaginative realm; then it returns to realism in a believable fashion. The ironic ending will give children something to think about and to discuss. Black-and-white scratchboard illustrations, done in sweeping strokes, nearly leap from the page, full of movement. Teachers' Choices.



Kent, Jack. **The Caterpillar and the Polliwog.** Illus. by author. Prentice-Hall, 1982. 4-8.

While concentrating on watching a caterpillar turn into a butterfly, a polliwog neglects to notice the changes in himself. The large, colorful cartoon-style illustrations depict these changes so that young readers catch on before the polliwog does. Good for reading aloud to groups. (Picture book)

Kent, Jack. **Little Peep.** Illus. by author. Prentice-Hall, 1981. 4-7.

Little Peep's attempts to make the sun come up just as the rooster does results in a mixed-up night and some wiser animals in the morning. Good for reading aloud. Large, colorful cartoonlike illustrations add to the humor. Children's Choices. (Picture book)

Kent, Jack. **Round Robin.** Illus. by author. Prentice-Hall, 1982. 4-8.

Little robin eats so much that he is too fat to fly south for the winter. The humorous conclusion should amuse young readers. Colorful cartoonlike illustrations feature Round Robin. Children's Choices. (Picture book)

Kent, Jack. **Silly Goose.** Illus. by author. Prentice-Hall, 1983. All ages.

Kent's colorful illustrations in earth tones with touches of yellows and reds animate the text, heighten the humor, and give character to the silly goose, who turns out not to be so silly after all. A lively and hilarious tale worthy of many readings. Children's Choices. (Picture book)

Kherdian, David. **The Song in the Walnut Grove.** Illus. by Paul O. Zelinsky. Alfred A. Knopf, 1982. 7-11.

The slow pace of the text is part of the contemplative mood in this symbolic tale of exploration. The wonders of nature are nowhere better exemplified than in the walnut tree. Here there is a grove of walnut trees, which are fast disappearing in the pace of the twenty-first century. A cricket and a grasshopper carry the plot line while they discover the world around them. Contains musical prose that reads well aloud.

King-Smith, Dick. **Magnus Powermouse.** Illus. by Mary Rayner. Harper & Row, 1982. 10-14.

The humorous adventures of an enormous mouse, his Oxford-educated father, and his simple, protective mother are told in this

book. Clearly delineated but somewhat stereotyped characters and well-individualized dialogue make this enjoyable light reading.

Kipling, Rudyard. **Just So Stories**. Illus. by Victor Ambrus. Rand McNally, 1982. 8-13.

Ambrus's illustrations fit Kipling's tales beautifully. The animals are individual characters whose eccentricities are clearly portrayed, especially in their faces. The collection includes "How the Camel Got His Hump" and "How the Rhinoceros Got His Skin."

Korschunow, Irina (translated by James Skofield). **The Foundling Fox: How the Little Fox Got a Mother**. Illus. by Reinhard Michl. Harper & Row, 1984. 5-8.

A simple story of caring, protection, and trust in the animal world as an orphan fox is adopted by an older fox. A small book that is best used on an individual basis. Detailed full-color illustrations.

Kwitz, Mary DeBall. **Little Chick's Breakfast**. Illus. by Bruce Degen. Harper & Row, 1983. 4-7.

Little Chick watches all the barnyard animals provide breakfast for their families as he waits for the sun to rise. Soft pastel-colored illustrations portray farm animals realistically in this book for beginning readers.

Lewis, Thomas P. **Mr. Sniff and the Motel Mystery**. Illus. by Beth Lee Weiner. Harper & Row, 1984. 7-9.

What evil lurks in the halls of a beach motel and threatens the leisurely vacation plans of the dogs who stay there? No one knows, but Mr. Sniff, dog detective, plans to find out. Lots of fun in this story, even though the easy-to-read format makes placement of the story's clues a little awkward to follow. Illustrations personify the dogs with subtle touches of humor.

Lionni, Leo. **Let's Make Rabbits**. Illus. by author. Pantheon Books, 1982. 5-8.

A book that is creative in both story line and illustrative quality. The story brings life to a pencil drawing of a rabbit and one pasted together from wallpaper swatches. Colorful and well designed, the book shows that a child can make something even if he or she cannot draw. It stimulates creativity as well as illustrating the difference between two-dimensional and three-dimensional objects. (Picture book)

Livermore, Elaine. **Follow the Fox.** Illus. by author. Houghton Mifflin, 1981. 3-6.

Sharp-eyed young readers can help Stanley the fox pursue the fox of his dreams. Stanley can't quite see her, but readers will enjoy the challenge of spotting both foxes on every page. A fun book for pre-readers.

Lobel, Arnold. **Uncle Elephant.** Illus. by author. Harper & Row, 1981. 5-8.

Both story and pictures will appeal to children as they enjoy the adventure on the train and the visit to Uncle Elephant. The ending is a surprise, well concealed but completely logical. (Picture book)

Maestro, Betsy, and Giulio Maestro. **The Guessing Game.** Illus. by Giulio Maestro. Grosset & Dunlap, 1983. 4-6.

Emily Pig enlists help from her friends as she searches for something that she describes for them in riddles. Children will enjoy guessing along with the story characters. (Picture book)

Maestro, Giulio. **Just Enough Rosie.** Illus. by author. Grosset & Dunlap, 1983. 4-6.

Rosie feels sad because she is so big that she tipped stork's boat and broke lizard's bench. But then she helps elephant build a new porch and learns that it is good to be big and strong. (Picture book)

Manushkin, Fran. **Moon Dragon.** Illus. by Geoffrey Hayes. Macmillan, 1982. 4-8.

A little mouse outwits a fierce dragon and finds food for all the other mice. The story is good for expressive reading aloud. Illustrations, although small, effectively portray the dragon and the mouse.

Marshall, James. **Rapscallion Jones.** Illus. by author. Viking Press, 1983. 5-8.

Instead of stooping so low as to get a job, Rapscallion Jones, a true rascal fox, decides to become a writer instead. He immediately develops writer's block. Younger children may not get the tongue-in-cheek humor, but they will enjoy the more obvious fun. The illustrations of sifty-eyed Rapscallion, portly crocodiles, and a cigar-smoking bulldog landlady heighten the humor and add to the characterizations. (Picture book)

Martin, Charles E. **Dunkel Takes a Walk**. Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1983. 4-8.

A simple story about a dog who ventures into a forest, but fast paced enough to keep children's attention. The watercolor illustrations suit the emotional tone of the text. (Picture book)

Martin, Jacqueline Briggs. **Bizzy Bones and Uncle Ezra**. Illus. by Stella Ormai. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1984. 4-7.

Intricate, detailed full-color illustrations enhance this story of two mice who live in a shoe. Children will enjoy Uncle Ezra's solution for conquering Bizzy's fear of the March wind. The text flows easily, with words that appeal and that can extend a child's vocabulary. (Picture book)

Mayne, William. **The Patchwork Cat**. Illus. by Nicola Bayley. Alfred A. Knopf, 1981. 4-8.

When Tabby's patchwork quilt is thrown into the garbage, she sets out to retrieve it. The illustrations are colorful and expressive, yet they have a soft, dreamlike quality about them. Text and pictures combine to create a satisfying tale with a comforting conclusion. Children's Choices. (Picture book)

McCully, Emily Arnold. **Picnic**. Illus. by author. Harper & Row, 1984. 3-6.

A child's worst fears are depicted in this wordless picture book about a family of mice who are going on a picnic. No one knows that the youngest mouse has fallen off the back of the truck, but all ends happily. The mouse faces are very expressive with economy of line. Illustrations are washed with a summer green. (Picture book)

McPhail, David. **Lorenzo**. Illus. by author. Doubleday, 1984. 4-9.

Illustrations with a three-color wash will attract young readers to this simple story of a traveling artist who moves into a deserted hollow tree and makes friends with the animals. An easy-to-read story with a theme that encourages young children to be observant and enjoy life. The text reads aloud well. (Picture book)

McPhail, David. **Snow Lion**. Illus. by author. Parents Magazine Press, 1982. 4-8.

When it gets too hot in the jungle, Lion sets out to find a cooler place. Young children will immediately know what that white, fluffy

blanket is and why Lion has no success in bringing some back to the jungle for his friends. Illustrations of the animals add to the humor, particularly when the animals romp in the snow. Children's Choices. (Picture book)

Moore, Inga. **The Vegetable Thieves.** Illus. by author. Viking Press, 1983. 5-8.

A satisfying story with some suspense and a conclusion that is perhaps too predictable. The full-color illustrations are lovely and delicate, showing mice, vegetables, and houses in exquisite detail. (Picture book)

Muntean, Michaela. **Alligator's Garden.** Illus. by Nicole Rubel. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1984. 3-7.

As alligator plants her garden, she explains each step in the process. The text provides instructions for playing a simple card game. Colorful glossy illustrations enhance the story, and the card game culminates in a surprise picture that will delight readers. Also recommended is *The House That Bear Built*. (Picture book)

Oakley, Graham. **The Church Mice in Action.** Illus. by author. Atheneum, 1982. 6-9.

A new cat-and-mouse adventure in the series of books about Samson and his mouse friends. Witty dialogue, uncanny mice, blundering catnappers, and fast-paced plotting all help make this a truly funny book. Full-color illustrations of the English countryside are filled with funny details and enhance the humorous text. (Picture book)

Oakley, Graham. **Hetty and Harriet.** Illus. by author. Atheneum, 1981. 5-9.

The misadventures of two hens who learn there is no place like home. There is understated humor in the relationship between the two in their search for a perfect place to live. Much of the story is told through elaborate illustrations drawn in many sizes and from many vantage points, enhancing the book's format and uniqueness.

Peet, Bill. **Encore for Eleanor.** Illus. by author. Houghton Mifflin, 1981. 3-8.

The story of an elephant who is no longer able to perform her circus act is told with both pathos and humor. The surprise talent that Eleanor discovers in old age allows her dignity and gives her new opportunities to perform. Children will cheer at the solution.

Full-color drawings are filled with energy. Children's Choices. (Picture book)

Peet, Bill. **The Luckies: One of All.** Illus. by author. Houghton Mifflin, 1982. 5-8.

A little boy wishes to be a bird, but he learns in the course of the story that there are benefits and drawbacks to every condition. For him, being a little boy is perhaps best of all. A common theme is given new vitality through Peet's skillful use of rhyme. Colorful, free-flowing illustrations complement the text.

Peet, Bill. **Pamela Camel.** Illus. by author. Houghton Mifflin, 1984. 5-8.

Readers cannot help but cheer for Pamela the camel as she saves the day when she stops a train before it runs over a track. In doing so, she becomes a celebrity with the circus. Peet's full-color, cartoonlike crayon illustrations and breezy writing style make this an excellent book for reading aloud to groups.

Pinkwater, Daniel M. **Roger's Umbrella.** Illus. by James Marshall. E. P. Dutton, 1982. 3-8.

An absurdly funny story about a young cat whose umbrella does not behave. His mother's credo, "An umbrella is an umbrella; they're all the same," takes on a comic twist when three old women teach him how to make all umbrellas do what he wants. This laugh-out-loud tale is enhanced by even funnier illustrations of the little orange cat in his sailor suit and the antics of his mischievous umbrella. Children's Choices. (Picture book)

Pinkwater, Daniel M. **The Worms of Kukumlima.** E. P. Dutton, 1981. 10-12.

Farfetched humor that at times is sheer nonsense. An expedition to find the worms that are suspected to be from outer space provides the adventure. All characters are male. Fast and easy reading.

Hollock, Penny. **The Spit Bug Who Couldn't Spit.** Illus. by Lorinda Bryan Cauley. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1982. 5-9.

A favorite with young readers who enjoy learning about spit bugs (they do exist) as well as chuckling at the adventures and escapades of Ezra, a young spittlebug. A See and Read Book, with soft black-and-white and pastel illustrations. The story is divided into five chapters, with the author's notes at the end.

Quackenbush, Robert. **Cable Car to Catastrophe.** Illus. by author. Prentice-Hall, 1982. 6-10.

An easy to-read mystery in the Miss Mallard series. The plot is humorous and contains a mystery that is difficult to solve.

Quackenbush, Robert. **Funny Bunnies.** Illus. by author. Clarion Books, 1984. 3-7.

A mildly funny story about a rabbit family's experience in a small hotel room filled with plumbers, maids, a janitor, a waiter, and a window washer, all trying to work at the same time. Pen-and-ink illustrations with watercolor wash capture the chaotic events. (Picture book)

Rey, Margret, and Alan J. Shalleck, editors. **Curious George Goes Sledding.** Houghton Mifflin, 1984. 4-7.

A new adventure of Curious George the monkey, adapted from the Curious George Film Series. The text is short and direct. The illustrations have the look of a film; they are in full color but are not quite as sharp or clear as earlier Curious George books. Excellent for young readers. Other books in the series are *Curious George and the Dump Truck*; *Curious George Goes to the Aquarium*; and *Curious George Goes to the Circus*.

Rosner, Ruth. **Rhinos Don't Climb!** Illus. by author. Harper & Row, 1984. 4-8.

Although they are told rhinos don't climb, Rena and Gerald solve this problem in their own unique, imaginative way. Humorous pictures in shades of red, yellow, and brown are easily seen by a group. Good for reading aloud and encouraging the imaginations of young listeners. (Picture book)

Sattler, Helen Roney. **No Place for a Goat.** Illus. by Bari Weissman. Elsevier/Nelson Books, 1981. 4-9.

A curious, persistent goat learns the hard way that although a house may be a temptingly wonderful place for people, it is certainly no place for a goat. Children should be able to relate to the animal's desire to possess the "forbidden fruit" and the ultimately disastrous consequences it can bring. Children's Choices.

Selden, George. **Chester Cricket's New Home.** Illus. by Garth Williams. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1983. 6-10.

When Chester Cricket's tree-stump home is crushed by two overweight ladies, he barely escapes with his life and his bell. Friends offer him refuge, but each new home has its drawbacks: too neat, too noisy, too high off the ground. Lively conversation, genuine personalities, and expressive illustrations combine in a warm tale of friendships and individuality.

Shannon, George. **Dance Away.** Illus. by Jose Aruego and Ariane Dewey. Greenwillow Books, 1982. 1-6.

A humorous tale of a rabbit who loves dancing so much that he alienates his friends with the repetition of his song and dance. Children will fancy this hero and his clever scheme for saving his friends from a fox, and they will repeat the refrain of his song after only a few readings. Lively, colorful illustrations convey with great economy of line the rabbit's joy in the dance or the fear in his eyes. (Picture book)

Shannon, George. **The Surprise.** Illus. by Jose Aruego and Ariane Dewey. Greenwillow Books, 1983. 3-6.

Squirrel solves the problem of what to give his mother for her birthday in an original and surprising fashion. Simple, brightly colored illustrations combine well with the text to create a joyful, entertaining story for young children. (Picture book)

Sharmat, Marjorie Weinman. **The Story of Bentley Beaver.** Illus. by Lillian Hoban. Harper & Row, 1984. 4-7.

A happy story of a beaver who loves to build things, sing, and play a guitar. The story follows him as he grows up, marries, and has children and grandchildren. Appealing, soft pastel-colored illustrations. Bentley's song is included, with music, at the end of the story.

Singer, Marilyn. **The Fido Frame-Up.** Illus. by Andrew Glass. Frederick Warne, 1983. 9-12.

A detective story told from the point of view of Sam, the canine friend of sleuth Philip Barlowe. The author evidently knows and understands dogs, for details of animal behavior add humor to a reasonably good plot.

Stadler, John. **Gorman and the Treasure Chest.** Illus. by author. Bradbury Press, 1984. 5-8.



When Gorma finds a treasure chest, all the animals decide to claim it as their own, but they need German to open it. The humorous surprise ending is appropriate and satisfactory. Brilliant, clear, full-color illustrations. (Picture book)

Stadler, John. **Hooray for Snail!** Illus. by author. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1984. 4-7.

In this story with some suspense for children just beginning to read, Snail steps up to bat in a baseball game. The vocabulary is simple, and children enjoy identifying the words they know. Illustrations highlight the humorous twists. (Picture book)

Stanley, Diane. **The Conversation Club.** Illus. by author. Macmillan, 1983. 5-8.

Peter Fieldmouse is quite sure he will enjoy the conversation club in his new neighborhood until he discovers that everyone converses at once. When Peter starts his own club, his friends learn a new and more practical style of conversation. Full-color illustrations portray a cozy country setting.

Seig, William. **Doctor De Soto.** Illus. by author. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1982. 5-8.

An ingenious, appealing story of a mouse dentist who helps a scheming fox suffering from a toothache and consequently puts himself in a precarious, life-threatening position. His solution is humorous and clever. The illustrations are exceptional. Children's Choices; Newbery Honor Book. (Picture book)

Taylor, Judy. **Sophie and Jack Help Out.** Illus. by Susan Gantner. Philomel Books, 1984. 4-6.

Sophie and Jack are back, and this time the two young hippos help out by planting a garden that nature unexpectedly turns a little topsy-turvy. The book contains a simple text that some beginning readers might want to try on their own. The ink and watercolor illustrations are marvelous, with rich splashes of spring and summer colors. Sophie and Jack are depicted whimsically and with wonderful simplicity. (Picture book)

Thaler, Mike. **It's Me, Hippo!** Illus. by Maxie Chambliss. Harper & Row, 1983. 5-7.

The everyday experiences of young Hippo serve as the focal points for chapters in this easy-to-read book. Hippo's disappointments

and joyful surprises should be reassuringly familiar to young readers, as the anecdotes explore their feelings with gentle sensitivity. Humorous illustrations should make this book popular.

Thayer, Jane. **Clever Raccoon**. Illus. by Holly Keller. William Morrow, 1981. 3-7.

Children will enjoy the way a clever raccoon outwits a squirrel, a chipmunk, a skunk, and the people, time after time. Framed three-color illustrations add to the humor and vitality of the characterizations.

Tompert, Ann. **Nothing Sticks Like a Shadow**. Illus. by Lynn Munsinger. Houghton Mifflin, 1984. 4-7.

Humor abounds as Rabbit tries to lose his shadow in order to win a bet with Woodchuck. Animation and vitality in the full-color illustrations add to the fun in this book. Young readers will appreciate the surprise ending.

Van Leeuwen, Jean. **More Tales of Oliver Pig**. Illus. by Arnold Lobel. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1981. 5-7.

Five tales, each forthright and easy to follow, demonstrate simplicity and a genuine philosophy from a child's point of view. The illustrations maintain the direct and clear style.

Varley, Susan. **Badger's Parting Gifts**. Illus. by author. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1984. All ages.

When Badger dies, he leaves his woodland friends a legacy of some very special memories. A sensitive portrayal of death and how to deal with the grief of losing a loved one. Illustrated in appealing pastel watercolors with pen-and-ink line drawings. (Picture book)

Vincent, Gabrielle. **Ernest and Celestine**. Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1982. 2-7.

Appealing drawings done in soft hues show a bear and his companion, a young mouse. The two must deal with "tragic" events similar to those in the life of a young child: a lost favorite animal, an almost-rained-out picnic, and money worries. The story is told mainly through the conversations of the two characters and relies heavily on the illustrations. Also recommended are *Bravo, Ernest and Celestine*; *Ernest and Celestine's Picnic*; and *Smile, Ernest and Celestine*. (Picture book)

Waber, Bernard. **Bernard.** Illus. by author. Houghton Mifflin, 1982. 5-8.

Bernard, a charming dog, is faced with a difficult problem. His owners have decided to separate, but they can't decide who should keep Bernard. While the story ending really only suggests a satisfactory solution, Waber does deal with a delicate situation quite effectively. His illustrations are both humorous and poignant. *Children's Choices.*

Watanabe, Shigeo. **I Can Take a Walk!** Illus. by Yasuo Ohtomo. Philomel Books, 1984. 3-5.

Bear's imagination can make a simple walk seem like a great expedition. The illustrations are clearly defined and handsomely presented in soft colors that contrast nicely with large, bold print. A fine book.

Weiss, Nicki. **Menj!** Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1981. 4-7.

Francine Treefrog's older sister has a new word for everything including Francine: *Menj!* During the course of a day, Francine adjusts to the new word, makes a wildlife collection only a great-grandfather could love, bakes chocolate chipless cookies, and creates an imaginary friend. An easy-to-read book with pink and green cartoon illustrations. (Picture book)

Wells, Rosemary. **Timothy Goes to School.** Illus. by author. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1981. 4-7.

In this short book with personified animals, Timothy has trouble fitting in with the group, especially with Claude. His solution will stimulate lively discussion; not all children will agree with it. *Children's Choices.* (Picture book)

Wiseman, Bernard. **Don't Make Fun!** Illus. by author. Houghton Mifflin, 1982. 4-8.

Bobby Boar solves the problem of his visiting relatives' rude and obnoxious behavior when he finds the right time to make fun. The rude behavior of the relatives provides slapstick humor while Bobby Boar's behavior demonstrates more subtle humor. Young readers will likely laugh at both. Cartoonlike drawings of boars and swine show good facial expressions on the animals.

Zelinsky, Paul O. **The Lion and the Stoat.** Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1984. 5-8.

Both *Lion* and *Stoat* work to be a better artist than the other in these three short stories, each with a surprise and most appropriate conclusion. Full-color illustrations convey much subtle humor. Children working individually or in small groups will best appreciate the detail in the pictures.

### High Fantasy

Beachcroft, Nina. *The Wishing People*. E. P. Dutton, 1982. 9-14.

Two children are granted ten wishes with sometimes humorous, sometimes disastrous, consequences in this fantasy story set in England. The text is wordy in spots, but the plot holds interest. The book could be read aloud to intermediate-grade children.

Cassedy, Sylvia. *Behind the Attic Wall*. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1983. 10-14.

An intense, alternately depressing, funny, and touching story of a lonely girl who learns to care for others. It requires a mature reader to follow the realism and fantasy, as well as the flashback technique used. The unexpected, yet acceptable, conclusion might be difficult for some readers to understand.

Eckert, Allan W. *The Dark Green Tunnel*. Illus. by David Wiesner. Little, Brown, 1984. 9-13.

A masterfully crafted fantasy that is grounded in the real world of the Florida Everglades. Three young people journey through the dense swamp until they find a turnstile, which leads them into the world of magic, evil spells, and magnificent creatures. The story is filled with twists and surprises, creating suspense and excitement. Readers will be glad that the epilogue promises a sequel. The mood of the tale is enhanced by illustrations.

Gilman, Dorothy. *The Maze in the Heart of the Castle*. Doubleday, 1983. 12 and up.

When sixteen-year-old Colin sets out to solve the mystery of the maze and to find his way to the country of Galt, he faces adventures and danger. Allegory is subtle yet easily understood in this action-filled story; once begun, it's hard to put down. Vivid descriptions of some dangers might seem gruesome to adults, but they probably will not disturb younger readers.

Martin, Graham Dunstan. *Catchfire*. Houghton Mifflin, 1982. 11-15.

A British fantasy full of Celtic imagery and fast-paced adventure. The style is lyrical and descriptive of a world peopled with dragons, great swords, and living oak beings. This sequel to *Giftwish* is a fresh contribution to the genre.

Mayhar, Ardash. **Soul-Singer of Tyrnos**. Argo Books, 1983. 12 and up.

A spellbinding tale of courage and power. Yelevee is a gifted but inexperienced soul-singer whose destiny is to rid Tyrnos of evil. The imagery is vivid and haunting; the reader will not easily forget the images of souls cast on the wall.

McKinley, Robin. **The Blue Sword**. Greenwillow Books, 1982. 12 and up.

This challenging book for mature readers offers excellence in description and style. The legendary magical abilities of the Free Hillfolk serve to perpetuate the rift between them and the Home-landers. The resulting story is told with a sense of mystery and adventure. Newbery Honor Book; Teachers' Choices.

McKinley, Robin. **The Hero and the Crown**. Greenwillow Books, 1984. 12 and up.

Aerin, a witch and daughter of the Damarian king, becomes a powerful figure in the struggle for good over evil. The help of the wizard Luthe and the Blue Sword enable her to bring the lost Hero's Crown again to those who rule Damar. A challenging story told with an air of legend. Newbery Medal Book.

Senn, Steve. **A Circle in the Sea**. Argo Books, 1981. 12 and up.

Through a magic ring, Robin enters the mind and form of Bree, a dolphin, and helps to rescue sea animals and also her father. An intense and gripping fantasy that shows, as well, what hunger and pollution can do to the undersea world. Not a book to be read quickly; for mature readers.

### **Humorous Fantasy**

Adler, David A. **Jeffrey's Ghost and the Leftover Baseball Team**. Illus. by Jean Jenkins. Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1984. 7-9.

This book will have limited appeal to young readers. Those who like baseball and short chapters will like this fast-paced and humorous story about a ghost who helps a Little League team of leftovers

have a winning season. There is little character development, and the ending is predictable. Black-and-white illustrations.

Allard, Harry. **Miss Nelson Is Back.** Illus. by James Marshall. Houghton Mifflin, 1982. 7-10.

A sequel to *Miss Nelson Is Missing* and nearly as funny. Miss Nelson's class has more encounters with odd people, and both the text and illustrations highlight the amusing results. (Picture book)

Allard, Harry. **The Stupids Die.** Illus. by James Marshall. Houghton Mifflin, 1981. 5-9.

Children will laugh out loud at the slapstick nonsense of a family who are sure they've died when the lights go out. Even their pets are smarter than these people! The added silliness of the illustrations, with such details as a clock with its numbers all mixed up and a cat hanging from the pendulum, makes this a book children will return to many, many times. Children's Choices. (Picture book)

Allen, Pamela. **Bertie and the Bear.** Illus. by author. Coward-McCann, 1984. 4-6.

Everyone is chasing someone else in this noisy, madcap story that begins with a fierce-looking bear pursuing a boy named Bertie. The rhythmic structure of text lines, the noise making of funny characters, and a delightful twist in the plot should please young children and encourage their participation in the story. The brisk lines and bright colors in the illustrations serve to reinforce the pace and humor of the book. (Picture book)

Person, Harold. **Barrels to the Moons.** Illus. by author. Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1982. 7-10.

There is suspense galore in this make-believe. Excellent pacing, a clear sense of problem, a quick ending, and terse language all make it a "read-it-again" book. The humor is perfect, letting the reader in on the joke while the characters are innocent. Refreshing in its absurdity, the book gives children a chance to laugh honestly. Children's Choices.

Blos, Joan W. **Martin's Hats.** Illus. by Marc Simont. William Morrow, 1984. 4-7.

Martin has many adventures when he wears different hats. Young readers will enjoy matching hats to occupations and activities and

perhaps thinking of more hats and adventures for Martin. Full-color illustrations. (Picture book)

**Bond, Michael. *Paddington on Screen*.** Illus. by Barry Macey. Houghton Mifflin, 1982. 7-9.

Seven deliciously humorous Paddington stories leave readers laughing at the bear's knack for finding trouble and saying the funniest things at just the right moment. Seemingly simply drawn, scribbly-lined illustrations give much character to Paddington and the Browns in comic fashion.

**Brown, Marc. *Arthur Goes to Camp*.** Illus. by author. Atlantic Monthly Press Books, 1982. 6-8.

Humor is the strongest element of appeal in the story and illustrations. Arthur goes to camp against his wishes and finds it's not so bad. The illustrations project fairly well, but a close look is needed to spot the details in Arthur's notes. (Picture book)

**Brown, Marc. *Arthur's April Fool*.** Illus. by author. Atlantic Monthly Press Books, 1983. 5-7.

Another delightful book about Arthur. In this one, April Fool's Day is coming, but Arthur seems to be missing out on the humorous side of the day as he nervously worries about being pulverized by the school bully. The day finally arrives, and Arthur is suddenly inspired with a plan for the last laugh on the bully. Lots of fun, with hilarious illustrations. Children's Choices. (Picture book)

**Byars, Betsy. *The Computer Nut*.** Illus. by Guy Byars. Viking Kestrel, 1984. 9-12.

When someone calling himself BB-9 and purporting to be a peaceable being from outer space begins sending Kate messages on her dad's computer, Kate is determined to discover BB-9's true identity. She teams up with computer-nut Willie Lomax, and the two are rewarded with a face-to-face encounter with an extraterrestrial being. Kate gains new insights into what friendship and caring are all about. Illustrated with computer graphics.

**Calmenson, Stephani. *Where Will the Animals Stay?*** Illus. by Ellen Appleby. Parents Magazine Press, 1983. 4-8.

A story told in lighthearted, easy-to-read verse. While a zoo is undergoing remodeling, the animals need temporary homes. Many young readers will enjoy reading this humorous poem on their

own. Illustrations add to the fun of reading as the animals find an unexpected place to stay.

Christian, Mary Blount. **Sebastian [Super Sleuth] and the Hair of the Dog Mystery.** Illus. by Lisa McCue. Macmillan, 1982. 9-11.

A clever dog helps his owner solve a mystery involving a missing gypsy necklace, a curse, and a kidnapped cat. Though the style is sometimes marred by excessively short sentences, there is enough clever description and good characterization to offer readers a mystery that is funny as well as interesting. Pen-and-ink illustrations add to the humor. Another book in the series is *Sebastian [Super Sleuth] and the Crummy Yummies Caper*.

Cole, Babette. **The Trouble with Mom.** Illus. by author. Coward-McCann, 1984. 5-8.

Having a mother who is a witch is sometimes difficult for friends to accept, but it can be even harder for the friends' parents. The children love her buggy cupcakes and odd pets, but it takes a near disaster to make the parents come around. Full-color, fun-filled illustrations. (Picture book)

Coombs, Patricia. **Dorrie and the Witches' Camp.** Illus. by author. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1983. 5-9.

When Dorrie and the Big Witch learn that all the Glumglen witches have been frightened away from the Witches' Camp, Dorrie decides to solve the mystery for herself. Dorrie fans should delight in the fact that once again the apprentice witch outwits and "outwatches" her more grown-up counterparts.

Dahl, Roald. **The BFG.** Illus. by Quentin Blake. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1982. 8-10.

When Sophie is kidnapped from an orphanage by the Big Friendly Giant (B. F. G.), she and B. F. G. set off to save Queen Elizabeth and others from wicked giants. Despite a tedious speech impairment Dahl uses with B. F. G., this adventure is filled with fun and humor.

Dahl, Roald. **The Witches.** Illus. by Quentin Blake. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1983. All ages.

When the Grand High Witch of the World changes a precocious young hero into a mouse in front of an assemblage of all the witches in England, the mouse-boy and his witch-hating, adventure-loving



grandmother begin a war against witches everywhere. An unbeatable combination of wit, fantasy, and adventure. Delightful reading for all ages.

Delaney, M. C. **The Marigold Monster**. Illus. by Ned Delaney. Unicorn Books, 1983. 5-8.

Audrey sells her marigold seeds and finds an appreciative audience for her jokes when she meets the neighborhood monster. The jokes she tells to the monster will be easily understood and probably repeated by young readers. Vivid colors in the humorous illustrations. Children's Choices.

de Paola, Tomie. **Giorgio's Village**. Illus. by author. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1982. All ages.

In a genuine mode of theater, this unique pop-up book tells a story as each scene is viewed. The brief text on each stage/page builds a sequence from early morning to day's end. Colors are vibrant and give the effect of distance in the background. There is humor in the details, which children continue to find in successive readings. The book will appeal in different ways to a wide age range. It will encourage storytelling beyond the text and will inspire theatrical artistic productions. (Picture book)

de Paola, Tomie. **Strega Nona's Magic Lessons**. Illus. by author. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1982. 5-9.

Children will chuckle at and enjoy the humor and suspense as Big Anthony tries, and fails, to learn magic, while Bambolona leaves her job in the bakery and succeeds in learning magic from Strega Nona. A tightly constructed text with illustrations that go just the right distance beyond the words. Children's Choices. (Picture book)

Dexter, Catherine. **Gertie's Green Thumb**. Illus. by Ellen Eagle. Macmillan, 1983. 9-12.

Children will enjoy the story of this conventional family who throw away all their furniture and then camp out for months in their magical greenhouse. It's eleven-year-old Gertie who comes up with an ingenious plot to prevent their home from being torn down. Shallow characters and a thin theme don't mar the comedy but keep the work from becoming one to read again and again.

Foreman, Michael. **Trick a Tracker**. Illus. by author. Philomel Books, 1981. 5-10.

A brief text and hilarious full-page watercolor illustrations tell a witty modern fable full of surprises. Children will enjoy the imaginative story and the illustrations, which depict a zany history of the invention of the wheel. The older child will be interested in the strange interpretations of such ancient monuments as the pyramids and Stonehenge. (Picture book)

Gackenbach, Dick. **Poppy the Panda**. Illus. by author. Clarion Books, 1984. 4-7.

Poppy, the toy panda, refuses to go to bed until Katie, his owner, finds him something to wear. Young children will chuckle over all the pieces of apparel Katie finds and will agree that Mother has the best idea. Full-color illustrations are simple and childlike. Katie and Poppy fill the pages; the expressions on their faces will draw smiles. (Picture book)

Gage, Wilson. **Cully Cully and the Bear**. Illus. by James Stevenson. Greenwillow Books, 1983. 4-7.

Children will enjoy the absurdity in this story of a bear chasing a hunter and vice versa. The thoughts of each as they chase the other will bring peals of laughter. Cartoon-styled illustrations done in quick bold strokes complement the humorous text. Children's Choices. (Picture book)

Gammell, Stephen. **Once upon MacDonald's Farm. . . .** Illus. by author. Four Winds Press, 1981. 4-7.

A comic twist of the song about Old MacDonald pictures a farmer, his dilapidated farm, and no animals. MacDonald proceeds to buy animals, but not the expected cow, horse, or chicken. The juxtaposition of zoo animals on a farm and, subsequently, of farm animals doing the wrong chores is sure to make children laugh. Carefully detailed pencil illustrations heighten the fun, as does the handwritten, quirky text. (Picture book)

Haseley, Dennis. **The Pirate Who Tried to Capture the Moon**. Illus. by Sue Truesdell. Harper & Row, 1983. 5-9.

A pirate's attempt to capture the moon results in a change in him. The rhythmical, lyrical writing style makes this a book that reads aloud easily. Humorous illustrations, done in black wash with brilliant yellow for the moon, complement the text. (Picture book)

Heide, Florence Parry. **Treehorn's Treasure**. Illus. by Edward Gorey. Holiday House, 1981. 7-11.

Treehorn is a perfect depiction of imagination both in text and in pictures, from a child's point of view. Magic, treasure in a tree, and comic books are ingredients for adventure. Humor and satire are found throughout. The book shows how great black-and-white illustrations can be. Other books in the series are *The Shrinking of Treehorn* and *Treehorn's Wish*. (Picture book)

Hicks, Clifford B. **The Wacky World of Alvin Fernald**. Illus. by Laura Hartman. Bantam Skylark Books, 1983. 8-11.

Alvin Fernald, the Magnificent Brain, carries out some clever schemes in the five adventures in this book. Two of the stories, "April Fool!" and "Alvin Invents a Man," are funnier than the others, but the whole collection adds to the humorous literature for this age group.

Hill, Donna. **Mr. Peeknuff's Tiny People**. Illus. by Alan Daniel. Atheneum, 1981. 5-8.

Young readers quickly catch the joke in this book as Mr. Peeknuff searches out and seeks to help the tiny people he sees from his mountain top. Illustrations help to depict the humor and are large enough to see in group settings. Rhythmic, repetitious phrases are easily repeated by listeners. (Picture book)

Holland, Isabelle. **Kevin's Hat**. Illus. by Leonard Lubin. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1984. 4-8.

Kevin Crocodile encounters different opinions about how his new hat makes him appear and then tries to project each impression until the confusion depresses him. His meeting with the independent Percival, who suggests that "everybody can never make up its mind," leads Kevin to self-assurance. Amusing, lively illustrations.

Howe, James. **The Celery Stalks at Midnight**. Illus. by Leslie Morrill. Atheneum, 1983. 8-11.

This sequel to *Bunnacula: A Rabbit Tale of Mystery* is just as funny as the first book. When Bunnacula, the vegetable vampire, turns up missing, Chester the cat leads the search for vegetables that have been turned into vampire vegetables by Bunnacula's attacks.

Howe, James. **The Day the Teacher Went Bananas**. Illus. by Lillian Hoban. E. P. Dutton, 1984. 4-7.

The humor of having a gorilla as the teacher for a day will surely appeal to young children. Hoban's colorful illustrations highlight

the ridiculous antics of the children as they progress through the school day under the gorilla's direction.

Howe, James. **Howliday Inn**. Illus. by Lynn Munsinger. Atheneum, 1982. 8-11.

A hilarious collection of animals being boarded for the summer find themselves in a frightening situation. There are strange disappearances and even the suspicion of murder. Chester the cat and Harold the dog finally get to the bottom of it.

Hutchins, Pat. **King Henry's Palace**. Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1983. 4-7.

Three short, humorous stories about a pleasant king who lives in his palace with his servants and guards. Repetitious phrases, plausible but unpredictable endings, and clear, full-color illustrations will all appeal to children. (Picture book)

Keller, Holly. **Ten Sleepy Sheep**. Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1983. 3-5.

Lewis tries to fall asleep, but the wild sheep dancing in his mind won't let him. There is a certain poetic control and discipline to this story. It is imaginative and possesses a folktale-like quality. The illustrations are simple, lively, and unpretentious. (Picture book)

Kellogg, Steven. **A Rose for Pinkerton**. Illus. by author. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1981. 4-8.

Pinkerton's adventures with Rose, the new kitten, are hilarious and lively. As usual, Kellogg's detailed illustrations capture the humor of each new situation. The story is somewhat marred, however, by occasional and unclear shifts in narrator from the little girl to other characters.

Kiesel, Stanley. **Skinny Malinky Leads the War for Kidness**. Lodestar Books, 1984. 12 and up.

A humorous satire that is a sequel to *The War between the Pitiful Teachers and the Splendid Kids*. Students will like the fast-paced action and unusual characters in this story of kids versus adults (mostly teachers). Adolescents can identify with the struggle and gain perspective from it, since there is a powerful message behind the fun.

King-Smith, Dick. **The Mouse Butcher**. Illus. by Margot Apple. Viking Press, 1982. 8-12.

Tom Plug's prowess as a hunter takes him above his station to a position as butcher for the Blue Persian Bampton-Bush family. Humor and action arise from his romance with the lovely daughter, Diana, and his battles against the Great Mog, a large and fierce cat.

Kroll, Steven. **Giant Journey**. Illus. by Kay Chora. Holiday House, 1981. 4-8.

Magnolia's adventures with four characters in the city convince her that Ignatius is the one she should marry. Humorous illustrations lead the reader into Maggie's adventures. Soft line drawings bordered with red enhance the text. Small pictures in the corners of each border add interest to the illustrations.

Kroll, Steven. **The Goat Parade**. Illus. by Tim Kirk. Parents Magazine Press, 1982. 5-7.

Young readers who enjoy the silliness and exuberance of books like those by Dr. Seuss will probably like this story-in-rhyme of a goat parade that gets slightly out of hand. Easy-to-read verses and comical illustrations make this a book that some readers will enjoy sharing out loud with their friends.

Lindbergh, Anne. **The People in Pineapple Place**. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1982. 8-12.

Pineapple Place and its inhabitants are invisible to all but ten-year-old August, who enjoys many adventures with these new friends when he moves to Washington, D. C. The characters are likable and the conclusion plausible and acceptable. Good for reading aloud.

Lindgren, Barbro (adapted by Jack Prelutsky). **The Wild Baby**. Illus. by Eva Eriksson. Greenwillow Books, 1981. 3-5.

This is an entertaining story, but the adaptation from the Swedish version makes the rhyming quality forced and unrhythmical. The wild baby does everything from swinging from chandeliers to falling in the toilet bowl. Full-color illustrations add character and humor. (Picture book)

Lindgren, Barbro (adapted by Jack Prelutsky). **The Wild Baby Goes to Sea**. Illus. by Eva Eriksson. Greenwillow Books, 1983. 4-7.

Baby Ben's "wildness" will seem quite normal to young children, who will enjoy his sea voyage. The text is written in rollicking, humorous, rhyming verse, and the interplay between fantasy and reality leads to a mystery ending. Imaginative illustrations turn reality into fantasy, showing a gleeful Baby Ben no matter what the adversity. (Picture book)

Lisle, Janet Taylor. **The Dancing Cats of Applesap.** Illus. by Joelle Shefts. Bradbury Press, 1984. 9-12.

Mr Jiggs's old-fashioned drugstore is saved from bankruptcy when its grouchy spinster soda jerk and the shy Melba Morris parade through town the one hundred dancing cats that live in the store. While cooperating in a series of humorous exploits, Melba gains confidence, Miss Toonie proves to be an independent, friendly woman, and Mr. Jiggs's interest in his business is reawakened.

Lobe, Mira (translated by Peter Carter). **The Snowman Who Went for a Walk.** Illus. by Winfried Opgenoorth. William Morrow, 1984. 5-8.

A glowing snowman searches for a place to live where he will never melt. Full-page, full-color illustrations are easily seen in a group viewing, while the intricate detail invites individual perusal. Expressive, descriptive phrases with rhyming adjectives for the snowman will involve young readers. (Picture book)

Lobel, Arnold. **Ming Lo Moves the Mountain.** Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1982. 6-10.

In a humorous story told in folktale style, a Chinese couple seeks advice from a wise man about how to move the mountain in whose shadow they live. The wisdom that springs from foolishness is the theme of the text and the droll pastel illustrations. (Picture book)

Mahy, Margaret. **The Haunting.** Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1983. 10 and up.

Plenty of lively dialogue, suspense, and light conflict keep the pace brisk in this story focusing on an extended family that includes three very different magicians. The importance of nurturing unique talents and appreciating the differences among people is stressed. The book includes a variety of clearly delineated characters.

Manushkin, Fran. **Hocus and Pocus at the Circus.** Illus. by Geoffrey Hayes. Harper & Row, 1983. 4-8.

Pocus tries to follow her big sister's lead and be mean at the circus on Halloween. But this little witch isn't good at being mean and nasty. Her tricks turn into treats, even for nasty witch Hocus, and bring delightful surprises to the circus. Energetic illustrations and easy-to-read text.

Marshall, Edward. **Fox All Week**. Illus. by James Marshall. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1984. 6-8.

An easy-to-read episodic book that recounts the daily adventures of Fox and his friends—from smoking cigars to “cooking” peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for dinner. A witty text and droll illustrations make this book a sure winner.

Marshall, James. **George and Martha Back in Town**. Illus. by author. Houghton Mifflin, 1984. 4-7.

Readers are in for a treat any time George and Martha appear in a book, and this is no exception. In these five short stories, the two hippos continue to engage readers with their deadpan antics as they wrestle out the problems and joys of friendship. Being in charge, annoying friends, and the tempting urge to snoop are the focus of some of the vignettes included in the book. Marshall's illustrations are also entertaining as he portrays two rather large hippos engaging in familiar, everyday exploits. (Picture book)

Marshall, James. **Taking Care of Carruthers**. Illus. by author. Houghton Mifflin, 1981. 8-11.

Subtle humor, funny situations, and favorite characters combine in an amusing story when Eugene and Emily try to cheer up sick Carruthers. Although organized by chapters, many chapters are episodic and can stand alone for short read-aloud times. Humorous black-and-white illustrations throughout the book.

Massie, Diane Redfield. **Chameleon the Spy and the Case of the Vanishing Jewels**. Illus. by author. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1984. 7-10.

Wordplay and a pair of crooks who talk Pig Latin add humor to this pseudodetective tale. The layout is rather cluttered, but the illustrations do match the humor of the text.

McInerney, Judith Whitelock. **Judge Benjamin: Superdog**. Illus. by Leslie Morrill. Holiday House, 1982. 8-11.

Amusing episodes in a family's life are told through the eyes of the family dog. Zany, often slapstick humor runs throughout this

book and its sequels: *Judge Benjamin: The Superdog Rescue* and *Judge Benjamin: The Superdog Secret*.

McNaughton, Colin. **Soccer Crazy**. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1981. 8-10.

Humor abounds in the text and illustrations. Children who play soccer will sympathize with Bruno, who is none too confident but who manages to win the game.

McPhail, David. **Fix-It**. Illus. by author. E. P. Dutton, 1984. 4-6.

Emma, a young bear, is reduced to tears when the TV is broken. While a repairman solemnly attacks the problem, Emma's parents creatively attempt to entertain the child until the simple charm of a storybook works its magic on Emma. McPhail has created a delightful little fantasy that reaffirms the joy of reading. Humorously detailed illustrations match the story in warmth and simplicity. (Picture book)

Oppenheim, Joanne. **James Will Never Die**. Illus. by True Kelley. Dodd, Mead, 1982. 7-10.

Much to the narrator's frustration, older brother James will not play dead during games. The story is witty, realistic, and fast moving and is well conveyed by the humorous illustrations. A good book to serve as a departure for discussion or dramatic interpretation of feelings and emotions.

Perez, Carla, M. D., and Deborah Robison. **Your Turn, Doctor**. Illus. by Deborah Robison. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1982. 3-7.

A very funny description of a physical checkup is given by a child who tells what she would do if she were the doctor and the doctor were the patient. The fears children have in the examining room are treated humorously but with sensitivity.

Pinkwater, Daniel M. **The Snarkout Boys and the Avocado of Death**. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1982. 12 and up.

The outrageous late-night adventures of three children who find themselves at the movies, eluding a gorilla, exploring the city's underground, and tracking down an archfiend who has kidnapped a relative. For the sophisticated reader who delights in bizarre images and concepts worked into a labyrinthine plot.

Quackenbush, Robert. **Gondola to Danger**. Illus. by author. Prentice-Hall, 1983. 6-8.



In the romantic city of Venice, Italy, Miss Mallard, the world-famous detective, sets out to unravel the mystery of a priceless painting stolen from the Doge's Palace. Could her longtime friend, El Ducko, be the culprit, as the evidence seems to suggest? Miss Mallard comes to the rescue. Suspense and hilarity are dished out in a tongue-in-cheek fashion. Lots of fun for young mystery lovers.

Rockwell, Anne. **Thump, Thump, Thump!** Illus. by author. E. P. Dutton, 1981. 3-8.

Using only about thirty different words, this easy-to-read version of *The Hairy Toe* uses repetition effectively to create suspense. Simple halftone illustrations in blue, gold, and black add to the humor and suspense while conveying the mood and the changing times of day. Also a good choice for reading aloud to preschoolers. Children's Choices. (Picture book)

Rodgers, Mary. **Summer Switch.** Harper & Row, 1982. 11-14.

Annabelle of *Freaky Friday* is older and only an observer in this story told by her brother and her father, who have switched places. Father is at camp and Ape Face is in Hollywood carrying out major business deals in this funny and sophisticated story. The conversation carries the plot.

Ross, Dave. **How to Prevent Monster Attacks.** Illus. by author. William Morrow, 1984. 7-10.

Wordplay abounds in this humorous book of advice about eluding monsters. But the humor is subtle; a reader needs to be able to recognize puns and jokes in both text and illustrations to appreciate the book fully. Black-and-white line illustrations.

Rounds, Glen. **The Morning the Sun Refused to Shine.** Illus. by author. Holiday House. 1984. 5-10.

Paul Bunyan, using his great strength and his remarkable thinking abilities, saves the world, which has frozen on its axle. Humor is conveyed through story and illustrations, the diagrams of the world and its operation are especially funny. Children will love the solution to the problem, the descriptive power of the language, and the way the author is able to poke fun at everyone. (Picture book)

Schatell, Brian. **Sam's No Dummy, Farmer Goff.** Illus. by author. J. B. Lippincott, 1984. 5-9.

Farmer Goff's turkey, Sam, shows some real talent for mimicking

animal sounds, but when the farmer tries to capitalize on Sam's talents, the plans go awry. Uproarious plot and illustrations. (Picture book)

Schertle, Alice. **Bim Dooley Makes His Move.** Illus. by Victoria Chess. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1984. 6-9.

Bim Dooley performs a series of miraculous actions to keep a dishonest moving man from stealing all of his family's possessions. The sense of adventure is enhanced by alternate pages of text set in the context of a stage and the facing pages done with dialogue in cartoon style.

Schwartz, Alvin, reteller. **In a Dark, Dark Room and Other Scary Stories.** Illus. by Dirk Zimmer Harper & Row, 1984. 4-8

Cozy, prickly excitement will result when the young child shares these seven spooky stories. The tales are humorously illustrated and are based on traditional stories and folktales from various countries.

Sharmat, Marjorie Weinman. **Sasha the Silly.** Illus. by Janet Stevens. Holiday House, 1984. 6-9.

A hilarious tale of Sasha, a primping, preening basset hound who drapes herself in new clothes, cosmetics, and creams in order to become "perfectly beautiful." With her ears up in a new hairdo and with "no fleas," Sasha ignores friends who can't appreciate her appearance, but she is shaken when her visiting parents refuse to recognize her. The illustrations are achingly funny, as appropriately chosen animals mimic their human counterparts. (Picture book)

Stevenson, James. **Oliver, Clarence and Violet.** Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1982. 5-8.

Oliver, a beaver, decides to sail around the world, but his trip is not what he has planned because all of his animal friends decide to join him. Children will enjoy the animals' humorous adventure. Large print makes the text easy to read. Gentle wit is captured in expressive black-and-white illustrations. (Picture book)

Stevenson, James. **We Can't Sleep.** Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1982. 4-8.

When his two grandchildren can't sleep, Grandpa tells them a wild story of a time when he couldn't sleep. Highly exaggerated,

improbable adventures and equally humorous pictures will appeal to young children. Good for reading aloud. (Picture book)

Stevenson, James. **Worse Than Willy!** Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1984. 5-8.

Grandpa convinces Louie and Mary Ann that their baby brother, Willy, isn't so bad when he relates tales of his own baby brother. Exaggeration, humor, and cartoon-style illustrations are appealing. (Picture book)

Stevenson, James. **Yuck!** Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1984. 5-8.

In his usual humorous vein, Stevenson tells the story of a little witch who outwits the other witches by creating a magic potion. Children will relate to the clever conclusion and love the ingredients in the potion. Cartoon-style illustrations are integral to the text. The book works best one to one or in a small group reading. (Picture book)

Stark, Catherine. **Emma's Dragon Hunt.** Illus. by author. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1984. 4-8.

An engaging and successful mingling of myth and reality, of Chinese and American cultures. Grandpa explains natural phenomena to Emma by telling her about the Chinese dragons who cause such occurrences. Full-page watercolor-wash illustrations detail the actual events and show blue polka-dot dragons hiding on each page that the reader, but not Grandfather and Emma, can see. (Picture book)

Taylor, Judy. **Sophie and Jack.** Illus. by Susan Ganther. Philomel Books, 1982. 3-6.

Sophie and Jack, two hippo friends, decide to play hide-and-seek, but they have trouble finding good hiding places. The problem and its solution are revealed through large, colorful illustrations that invite young readers/listeners to participate in the game.

Tusa, Tricia. **Libby's New Glasses.** Illus. by author. Holiday House, 1984. 1-8.

Libby, miserably slumped over in the eye doctor's chair, can't imagine having to wear those awful glasses that she has been given. After she solemnly decides to run away, Libby walks until she meets a beautiful ostrich with his head stuck in the sand. What Libby discovers about the bird's need to hide opens up a whole

new perspective on her own problem. The story is genuinely sensitive to the concerns that some young children have. Whimsical illustrations. (Picture book)

Wasmuth, Eleanor. **The Picnic Basket**. Illus. by author. Grosset & Dunlap, 1983. 4-6.

Father alligator and children Andy and Alice pack a picnic lunch and go fishing for the day. While they are fishing, many of their friends stop by, look in the basket, and help themselves to the tasty food. Fortunately, the father catches enough fish to cook for lunch instead. (Picture book)

Weinberg, Lawrence. **The Forgetfuls Give a Wedding**. Illus. by Paula Winter. Scholastic Book Services, 1983. 5-9.

Confusion arises when a family of forgetful bears tries to plan a wedding in this humorous book. Winter's illustrations are reminiscent of *The Bear and the Fly*.

Weiss, Leatie. **My Teacher Sleeps in School**. Illus. by Ellen Weiss. Frederick Warne, 1984. 4-8.

Children who have wondered where their teacher lives will relate to this humorous story in which the characters are animals. The grade level is vague, but activities are typical of primary grade children as the young students decide where their teacher eats and sleeps. The surprise ending is perfect. Full-colored pictures are easily seen in group settings, so the book is good for reading aloud.

Wiseman, Bernard. **Doctor Duck and Nurse Swan**. Illus. by author. E. P. Dutton, 1984. 3-6.

An animal fantasy in which the humor is derived from plays on words and on character traits, such as a bald eagle who wants hair and a catfish who is concerned because he can't meow. The book has read-aloud appeal enhanced by key words set in boldface type. (Picture book)

### Literary Make-Believe

Andersen, Hans Christian (translated by Erik Haugaard). **The Emperor's Nightingale**. Illus. by Lemoine. Schocken Books, 1981. 8 and up.

An excellent translation of this classic tale of a Chinese emperor who first loved and then abandoned a wild bird with an enchanting

song. The nightingale's bejeweled mechanical replacement proves to be of no help when the Emperor faces death and longs for the comfort of a sweet song. Delicate illustrations in an Oriental style.

Andersen, Hans Christian (edited by Bryan Holme). **Fairy Tales of Hans Christian Andersen**. Illus. by Kay Nielsen Viking Press, 1981. 9-12.

This translation of the classic fairy tales reads aloud quite smoothly, though the Haugaard translation of *The Emperor's Nightingale* is stronger. Nielsen's illustrations, however, are superb. The color plates in particular are delicate and detailed in design.

Andersen, Hans Christian (adapted by Janet Stevens). **The Princess and the Pea**. Illus. by adapter. Holiday House, 1982. 4-8.

Humorous illustrations depict a lion as a prince and a frog and mice as court jesters. The entire cast of characters delights the eye and recreates the story with considerably more irony than ever appeared in the original version. (Picture book)

Andersen, Hans Christian. **The Steadfast Tin Soldier**. Illus. by Thomas Di Grazia. Prentice-Hall, 1981. All ages.

A one-legged tin soldier, after a terrible adventure, finds his way back to his true love, a paper ballerina. Di Grazia's soft, muted black-and-white illustrations reflect the mystical quality of this tale.

Andersen, Hans Christian (translated by Anthea Bell). **The Swineherd**. Illus. by Lisbeth Zwerger. William Morrow, 1982. 7-10.

A prince from a small kingdom seeks the hand of the emperor's daughter, but she spurns his simple though genuine gifts. His disguise as a swineherd reveals her true nature and brings the story to a satisfying conclusion. Spacious illustrations highlight the shallow gaiety and melodramatic sorrow of the emperor's kingdom. (Picture book)

Andersen, Hans Christian. **The Wild Swans**. Illus. by Karen Milone. Troll Associates, 1981. 5-9.

Eleven brothers who have been turned into swans by their evil stepmother are rescued by their sister. Although the style is choppy in some places, the tale flows well enough to keep a reader's attention. The watercolor illustrations capture the sense of urgency as the princess works to free her brothers.

Bunting, Eve. **The Man Who Could Call Down Owls.** Illus. by Charles Mikolaycak. Macmillan, 1984. 6-10.

An eerie, awesome story of the respect between owls and an old man who has befriended them and the revenge that is wreaked when an evil stranger tries to take power. Descriptive, moving phrases combine with a terse, compelling writing style. Intense, dramatic black-and-white pencil drawings bordered with blue fill the pages and set the mood for the story. (Picture book)

Carrick, Donald. **Harald and the Giant Knight.** Illus. by author. Clarion Books, 1982. 7-9.

Framed pictures tell the story as much as the text does. The mood and setting are appropriately expressed in dark colors with shading. The hero, Harald, helps build the giant that fools the intruders. Set in medieval times, the story conveys a feeling of the tensions arising from the feudal system. The book reads easily in one session, and the pictures project well even though they are filled with details. (Picture book)

Cole, Brock. **The Winter Wren.** Illus. by author. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1984. 4-8.

A magical tale of a mentally handicapped boy. Because he takes everything literally, he is able to outwit Winter and awaken Spring, a lovely young girl all dressed in green. Watercolor illustrations softly depict a time long ago peopled with gnarly, skeletal old man Winter, panoramic vistas of winter landscapes, and verdant spring fields. Children will enjoy the tale's frightening aspects and the just ending. (Picture book)

Jones, Terry. **The Saga of Erik the Viking.** Illus. by Michael Foreman. Schocken Books, 1983. 10 and up.

This story of an epic, heroic journey much like the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* incorporates elements from Nordic sagas and beliefs. Each chapter is one episode or adventure, which makes the book good for reading aloud. Characters and their foes are larger than life and mystically depicted in dramatic, beautifully colored illustrations.

Lindgren, Astrid (translated by Patricia Crompton). **Ronia, the Robber's Daughter.** Viking Press, 1983. 9-12.

This Swedish tale of friendship and love between a robber's daughter and an archrival's son is replete with goblins, harpies, and other enchanted forest folk. The story of Ronia's affection for Birk is told with a gentle humor that makes the robbers appear more foolish than fierce.

Mayne, William. **The Green Book of Hob Stories; The Red Book of Hob Stories; The Blue Book of Hob Stories; The Yellow Book of Hob Stories** (4 vols.). Illus. by Patrick Benson. Philomel Books, 1984. 6-10.

Short tales of Hob, a wonderful little creature who is visible only to children and who helps out around the house while everyone sleeps. He quickly dispatches all sorts of mischievous pixy creatures who try to disrupt his tranquil home. Many fairy-tale elements are incorporated in these droll stories. The language has the rhythm of folktales, making the stories excellent for reading aloud. Full-color ink illustrations of a chubby Hob, a normal family, and fantastic creatures set a humorous, English mood.

Menuhin, Yehudi, and Christopher Hope. **The King, the Cat and the Fiddle**. Illus. by Angela Barrett. Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1983. 6-10.

This delightful parable about the importance of music in a kingdom and in one's life ends with a gorgeous painting and the two-edged adage "Happy is the kingdom where the accountant plays second fiddle to the king." The book includes music and exercises for the violin.

Moeri, Louise. **The Unicorn and the Plow**. Illus. by Diane Goode. E. P. Dutton, 1982. 6-10.

"It's only when things are at their very worst that miracles occur." Beasts talk and a unicorn transforms weeds into abundant crops in this well-told tale. Black-and-white illustrations complement the mood of the tale with foreboding woods, medieval clothing and implements, and the sorrowful faces of the poor farmer and his oxen. Children's Choices. (Picture book)

Norton, Mary. **The Borrowers Avenged**. Illus. by Beth and Joe Krush. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1982. 9-12.

Although off to a slow start, this story becomes exciting as Arrietty and her parents, Pod and Homily, escape the exploitation of the Platters, a cruel couple holding them prisoner. This sequel to *The Borrowers* is well written, filled with action and clever humor.

Roberts, Bethany. **Waiting-for-Spring Stories.** Illus. by William Joyce. Harper & Row, 1984. 2-6.

These simple, imaginative tales, told by Papa Rabbit to the baby rabbits as they wait for spring to arrive, are based on fables and oral tales. Illustrations are old-fashioned paintings, miniature like the tales themselves and the world of small rabbits. (Picture book)

Segal, Lore. **The Story of Old Mrs. Brubeck and How She Looked for Trouble and Where She Found Him.** Illus. by Marcia Sewall. Pantheon Books, 1981. 5-9.

A nonsense tale of a grandmother who is so worried about trouble that she decides to go out and find it so she can keep her eye on it as long as she lives. Scratchy pencil illustrations done in soft pastels show Mrs. Brubeck scurrying hither and thither in her search. Diminutive drawings of the woman charging in every direction are on the endpapers, setting the mood for the story. (Picture book)

Sendak, Maurice. **Outside Over There.** Illus. by author. Harper & Row, 1981. All ages.

The book is a work of art, strong and powerful. The text of this story of a baby kidnapped by goblins is spare, with many symbolic configurations. That there is more here than one reading can encompass is a tribute to the artist; that the reader may wonder about the meanings may bother adults more than children. Caldecott Honor Book. (Picture book)

Williams, Margery. **The Velveteen Rabbit, or, How Toys Become Real.** Illus. by Michael Hague. Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1983. All ages.

Williams's classic tale of the toy rabbit who wanted to be real and the little boy whose love made it happen is magically recaptured here with the help of enchanting full-color illustrations. A book to be cherished by young and old alike. Children's Choices.

### Modern Fairy Tales

Ariane. **Small Cloud.** Illus. by Annie Gusman. Unicorn Books, 1984. 4-6.

This story is cyclic; the raindrop returns to the river, and another cloud is born when Big Sun smiles and warms Singing River's



heart. At some points the language is poetic and sensuous, but at other times the telling is uneven. Gusman's illustrations enliven the text; her brightly colored full-page paintings are rich in texture and otherworldly in tone. (Picture book)

Aylesworth, Jim. *Mary's Mirror*. Illus. by Richard Egelski. Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1982. 5-10.

Mary is happy until she finds an old mirror and sees how poor and ragged she looks. She trades her possessions for a fine set of clothes, hoping to recapture her happiness. In the end, she discovers that how you look on the outside has little to do with how you feel on the inside.

Baker, Betty. *The Turkey Girl*. Illus. by Harold Berson. Macmillan, 1983. 6-8.

A young girl has the responsibility of caring for the town turkeys. The story has elements of a Cinderella theme, but it also includes helpful turkeys, a spoiled prince, and a kind hunter. Orange, black, and brown line and wash illustrations.

Bang, Molly, adapter. *Dawn*. Illus. by adapter; calligraphy by G. G. Laurens. William Morrow, 1983. 8-12.

An adaptation of the Japanese "Crane Wife" legend, this time with a nineteenth-century American setting and a Canada goose as heroine. The story is told to Dawn as her father recalls his short time with her uniquely skilled mother. The calligraphy is easily read, and color illustrations are framed with related details. Teachers' Choices. (Picture book)

Berger, Barbara. *Grandfather Twilight*. Illus. by author. Philomel Books, 1984. 4-8.

Each evening, Grandfather Twilight walks in the forest to perform the task of bringing night to the world. Exquisite full-color illustrations extend and illuminate the simple text, reflecting the mystery of the nightly miracle. Poetic text and soft, reassuring pictures make this a perfect bedtime choice. (Picture book)

Borchers, Elisabeth (translated and adapted by Elizabeth Shub). *Dear Sarah*. Illus. by Wilhelm Schlote. Greenwillow Books, 1981. 7-10.

Sarah's father writes to her from the European cities he visits. His letters are rich with tales of make-believe and fantasy. Skillfully

printed, striking illustrations help engage the reader with the whimsical text.

Brown, Ruth. **A Dark Dark Tale**. Illus. by author. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1984. 5-8.

The ending of this tale is a disappointment, but paintings of the episodes leading up to it make the book worth reading. The dark colors and detail in the illustrations are just right to lead the reader on an adventure in a cobwebby, deserted castle. (Picture book)

Crowley, Arthur. **The Wagon Man**. Illus. by Annie Gusman. Houghton Mifflin, 1981. 3-8.

In this rhymed story, a small boy outwits a riddle master, winning for himself and his playmates the right to return home from Tarry Town. Grotesque characters and animals are set against stylized landscapes in the full-color illustrations, reinforcing the dreamlike quality of the story. (Picture book)

Domanska, Janina. **What Happens Next?** Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1983. All ages.

A baron who loves tall tales offers freedom to any peasant who can tell him a story that will surprise him. For tall-tale connoisseurs everywhere, this imaginative story is sure to please in reading after reading. The whimsical illustrations with colorful border designs add another delightful dimension.

Fleischman, Paul. **The Animal Hedge**. Illus. by Lydia Dabovich. Unicorn Books, 1983. 7-10.

Drought causes a farmer to lose his crops, his animals, and, finally, most of his land. He still has a wonderfully large hedge, however, and this he trims into the shapes of animals to remind him of the real ones he misses so much. As years go on, the shapes in the hedge lead his sons to their chosen occupations and to the idea that they might buy new farm animals for their father. Black-and-white illustrations with green accents complement the folktale aspects of the story.

Gerstein, Mordicai. **Prince Sparrow**. Illus. by author. Four Winds Press, 1984. 5-9.

An outrageous, spoiled princess is convinced that a sparrow she catches is really a prince in disguise, and her friendship with the sparrow changes her behavior. The story ends with an appropriate

and satisfying conclusion. A lesson on friendship and sharing is presented, but the story is not didactic. Humorous, full-color illustrations.

Haas, Irene. *The Little Moon Theater*. Illus. by author. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1981. 5-9.

A magical fantasy about a traveling theater troupe of three who are able to grant the wishes of characters they encounter on their journeys, much to the dismay of a tired old fairy godmother who is always one step behind them in granting wishes. The humor is subtle, and the text contains beautiful, poetic songs. Very detailed, softly colored watercolors are integral to the story and will draw children back to the book again and again. (Picture book)

Hoffmann, E. T. (translated by Ralph Manheim). *Nutcracker*. Illus. by Maurice Sendak. Cowden, 1984. 9 and up.

Sendak's illustrations for this new translation of Hoffmann's *Nutcracker* reveal the sinister aspects of Marie Stahlbaum's dream world inhabited by mice, dolls, soldiers, and a nutcracker. Although the story differs essentially from the version traditionally presented as a ballet, there are familiar elements in Godfather Drosselmeier and the battle between the soldiers and the mice. Manheim's translation reads well, and the length and complexity of the tale suggest that it might best be read aloud.

Kushner, Donn. *The Violin-Maker's Gift*. Illus. by Doug Pantou. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1982. 10-13.

An original tale about a French violin-maker who saves the life of a beautiful young bird and then gives the bird away. When he learns of the bird's magical powers, Gaspard ponders stealing it back. His final decision unravels the mystery of the bird and provides the violin-maker with a secret for making instruments that sing. A fascinating book, though the story's allegorical level is a bit confusing. The language is richly descriptive, and the illustrations add to the folk flavor of the story.

Meddaugh, Susan. *Beast*. Illus. by author. Houghton Mifflin, 1981. 4-8.

Anna discovers a forest beast. Her family immediately assume a large, furry beast like that must be evil, and only Anna withholds judgment until she can get to know the strange creature herself. Simple line drawings and color illustrations effectively convey the contrasting personalities of the story's characters. Children's Choices. (Picture book)

Moore, Sheila. **Samson Svenson's Baby**. Illus. by Karen Ann Weinhaus. Harper & Row, 1983. 5-8.

Samson Svenson and Kristin Karversdatter find a friendship through a little duck called Cattail. Soft pencil drawings enhance the story. Oddly though, while the text calls Samson "homely" and Kristin "ample," the illustrations don't really give this impression.

Noble, Trinka Hakes. **Hansy's Mermaid**. Illus. by author. Dial Press, 1983. 4-8.

A Dutch family find a mermaid beached by a storm. Convinced that their way of life is best, they insist that she learn to scrub, sew, and make butter. Only the boy Hansy sympathizes with her and returns the mermaid to her carefree life at sea. A quaint Holland of the windmill days is depicted in muted full-color illustrations. (Picture book)

Obrist, Jürg. **The Miser Who Wanted the Sun**. Illus. by author. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1984. 7-10.

A tale about a greedy man whose scheme to own even the sun taught him a lesson. The telling is not didactic, however, and the full-color paintings are graphically interesting, with framed pages broken only by the brief text. (Picture book)

Prokofiev, Sergei (translated by Maria Carlson). **Peter and the Wolf**. Illus. by Charles Mikolaycak. Viking Press, 1982. 4-8.

Dramatic elements of this tale set in peasant Russia will intrigue listeners even without the orchestral characterization of the story characters. Boldly drawn, brightly colored illustrations dominate the page and show evidence of careful research. The artist's perspective heightens the exciting narrative. (Picture book)

Shannon, George. **Bean Boy**. Illus. by Peter Sis. Greenwillow Books, 1984. 6-9.

A modern-day cumulative tale, told in storyteller's style. The conclusion is satisfying, and the soft pencil drawings create an extra element of fantasy. (Picture book)

Shannon, George. **The Piney Woods Peddler**. Illus. by Nancy Tafuri. Greenwillow Books, 1981. 4-8.

The peddler's ritual sales pitch and traveling song give a rhythmic, musical quality to the text that blends effectively with tall-tale elements in the story. His sunny, carefree disposition is enhanced

by illustrations in bright colors and the use of plenty of white space. Observant readers will delight in a variety of animal traveling companions. Children's Choices. (Picture book)

Sharpe, Sara (idea by Susan Moxley). **Gardener George Goes to Town.** Illus. by Susan Moxley. Harper & Row, 1982. 2-6.

Gardener George travels to town from the Blue Mountains and gets a job sweeping streets. Two-dimensional, stylized illustrations show the drab gray and brown town he enters transformed at the end by the rainbow-colored birds, flowers, and fruit trees that magically appear when George plants a garden and throws a party for the town. Opposite each framed, full-color illustration is the spare text and an ink drawing. (Picture book)

Van Allsburg, Chris. **The Mysteries of Harris Burdick.** Illus. by author. Houghton Mifflin, 1984. 9-12.

Pictures with surrealistic details provide the basis for story openers that give a prospective writer material to think about. One picture of two children at the beach is captioned "A Strange Day in July," and the lead sentence is "He threw with all his might, but the third stone came skipping back." (Picture book)

Wersba, Barbara. **The Crystal Child.** Illus. by Donna Diamond. Harper & Row, 1982. 10 and up.

A haunting tale of a boy who falls in love with a crystal statue that had once been a human child. Beautifully told, it creates a mood that intermingles fantasy and reality.

Wetterer, Margaret K. **The Mermaid's Cape.** Illus. by Elise Primavera. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1981. 6-9.

A moving tale in which a young fisherman marries a mermaid against her wishes. Based on an Irish legend, the story is both sad and happy, with a very appropriate conclusion. Descriptive phrases and Irish words add to the beauty of the text. Black-and-white line illustrations strongly enhance the story.

Yolen, Jane. **Brothers of the Wind.** Illus. by Barbara Berger. Philomel Books, 1981. 8-14.

The brotherhood of Lateef, an orphan's orphan, and a winged foal becomes the obsession of a dying Caliph. Each of the three is held captive by his desires, and it seems impossible for all three to attain freedom. The Middle Eastern setting permeates the carefully decorated scenes.

Yolen, Jane. **Sleeping Ugly**. Illus. by Diane Stanley. Coward-McCann, 1984. 7-10.

A tale with a moral, in true folktale style. From beginning to end, the humor of the story gives it life, and the illustrations give personality to the characters.

### Other Worlds

Baker, Betty. **Sever Spells to Farewell**. Macmillan, 1982. 8-11.

The suspenseful story of a girl's escape from her uncle's inn to a country where she hopes to practice sorcery. A sprinkling of humor, unusual incidents, and an interesting variety of characters will hold the reader's attention.

Bass, Donna. **The Tale of the Dark Crystal**. Illus. by Bruce McNally. Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1982. 8-11.

Youthful hero Jen takes on the mission of finding a small shard of the dark crystal in order to return it to its rightful place and thus restore goodness and harmony to the world of the Three Suns. This storybook, based on the movie *The Dark Crystal*, produced by Jim Henson of "Muppet" fame, will be read and enjoyed by a great number of younger fantasy fans.

Jonas, Ann. **The Quilt**. Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1984. 3-7.

Dreamlike magic occurs when a child's new quilt becomes a town after she goes to sleep. The troubled dream will seem very familiar to child readers, who will enjoy matching dream illustrations to their corresponding quilt patches. Softly colored illustrations are cleverly conceived; even the endpapers are quilted in homey fabric. (Picture book)

Jones, Diana Wynne. **Witch Week**. Greenwillow Books, 1982. 10 and up.

Even at the risk of being burned at the stake, the witch orphans coming into their powers can't resist using magic to get even with rivals or to relieve the boredom of school. A rich variety of clearly delineated and distinctive characters are depicted in a well-developed story told from the points of view of two young witches.

Marzollo, Jean, and Claudio Marzollo. **Blue Sun Ben**. Illus. by Susan Meddaugh. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1984. 7-10.

In the world of two suns, children spend half of each day as animals. On a late trip home from school, a young boy, who has been changed into his animal person, is caught in the claws of an evil scientist plotting ways to transform children into gold. An unusual story for an easy-to-read book. The science fiction setting and the elements of danger should make this book interesting, especially for intermediate-grade children with more limited reading skills.

Showell, Ellen Harvey. **Cecelia and the Blue Mountain Boy**. Illus. by Margot Tomes. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1983. 10-14.

When Cecelia's father stifles her dancing, she wanders into the mysterious Blue Mountains. There she meets a boy fiddler who shows her how to follow a magical stream underground to a place of music and freedom. Her return home nearly leads to disaster in this tale of the origins of the Chester Music Festival. Illustrated with ink sketches and silhouettes.

Willard, Nancy. **Uncle Terrible: More Adventures of Anatole**. Illus. by David McPhail. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1982. 8-12.

In this clever intertwining of reality and fantasy, a remarkable dollhouse and a book of spells catapult a boy and his friend, Uncle Terrible, who's so "terribly nice," into a series of adventures. The action is quick paced; the language and description are rich; and the characters are believable. Scratchy ink illustrations truly enhance the story and give the reader a look at the fantasy world so deftly created by the words.

### Supernatural Tales

Bellairs, John. **The Dark Secret of Weatherend**. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1984. 10 and up.

Good, fast-paced writing and a plot that includes mysterious weather changes and disappearing books. Anthony and his friend, Miss Eells the librarian, find themselves at the mercy of sinister Anders Borkman until they unravel the mystery of Mr. Borkman. A book to challenge good readers.

Bellairs, John. **The Spell of the Sorcerer's Skull**. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1984. 10 and up.

A haunted dollhouse and a frightening jack-o'-lantern set this

mystery in motion. Uearthly sounds and demonic beings create a terrifying situation for Johnny Dixon as he seeks to solve the mystery. Well written.

**Bendick, Jeanne. *Scare a Ghost, Tame a Monster*.** Illus. by author. Westminster Press, 1983. 7-12.

A collection of perfectly wonderful facts and fantasies about ghosts, monsters, scary animals, flying objects, and methods of dealing with such phenomena. An example is the wearing of garlic as protection from vampires. The beautifully told, easy-to-read stories are accompanied by humorous black-and-white illustrations.

**Brittain, Bill. *Devil's Donkey*.** Illus. by Andrew Glass. Harper & Row, 1981. 9-13.

A spine chiller with dialect and sentence structure that lets the reader-listener know this is a real tall tale. Transformations are part of the magic, and suspense runs high before justice prevails. Not for the hard realist or fainthearted, the book will hold other readers to the end. Drawings are equally eerie in misty gray. The book is easy to hold, and the pages stay open without a struggle.

**Brittain, Bill. *The Wish Giver: Three Tales of Coven Tree*.** Illus. by Andrew Glass. Harper & Row, 1983. 9 and up.

A wonderfully entertaining tale spun by a master storyteller. This folktale-like story has a new twist added to the familiar theme of extraordinary wishes granted to the unwary. Readers will sympathize with the various plights of three such individuals. The moral is obvious—no free lunch! Soft black-and-white drawings, like woodcuts, enhance the text. Newbery Honor Book.

**Carlson, Natalie Savage. *The Ghost in the Lagoon*.** Illus. by Andrew Glass. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1984. 6-10.

A young boy finds a way to scare a pirate's ghost that stands guard over a treasure chest in this Halloween adventure story combining the scary and the familiar. The easy-to-read, exciting story and charcoal illustrations of ghosts, bare branches, and hanging moss forests create a spooky mood. An effective story for reading aloud or storytelling.

**Carlson, Natalie Savage. *Spooky Night*.** Illus. by Andrew Glass. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1982. 4-10.

A wonderfully spooky tale of a witch's black cat is appropriate for



reading and telling. A magical flow of prose spins a mysterious mood with a touch of fantasy blended with reality. Illustrations are appropriately soft and full of mystery.

**Chew, Ruth. *Mostly Magic*.** Holiday House, 1982. 8–10.

When Pete comes to Dick and Emily's house to fix a leak, he turns out to be no ordinary plumber. The children discover his ladder and pencil are full of magic and help themselves to a day's worth of magical adventures.

**Chew, Ruth. *Secondhand Magic*.** Holiday House, 1981. 8–10.

A brother and sister's adventures with a magical kite that they name "bird" and with the wizard who created it. A simple but appealing story.

**Chorao, Kay. *Lemon Moon*.** Illus. by author. Holiday House, 1983. 4–7.

A little boy tries to convince his grandmother that the pictures on the patchwork quilt made by her come to life and keep him from sleeping. "The moon," he tells her, "grew stars and a cat on a cloud ate the stars with a spoon." Illustrations capture the mood of the story. (Picture book)

**Cohen, Daniel. *The Restless Dead: Ghostly Tales from around the World*.** Dodd, Mead, 1984. 10 and up.

The preface clearly indicates that these episodes may not have really happened but suggests they are similar to many stories that people tell "late at night." The international character of the collection adds intrigue.

**Knight, David C. *Best True Ghost Stories of the 20th Century*.** Illus. by Neil Waldman. Prentice-Hall, 1984. 10 and up.

This collection of twenty stories retells various people's supposedly true experiences with apparitions and poltergeists. Intriguing, suspenseful reading for those interested in such supernatural phenomena. For mature readers.

**Lindbergh, Anne. *Bailey's Window*.** Illus. by Kinuko Craft. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1984. 10–12.

Friendship grows between the Vikings—Anna, Carl, and Ingrid—and the dreaded cousin, Bailey, when he takes them on adventures into the worlds he paints on the bedroom wall. The reader is drawn

into the magical scenes and may question, as do the children in the story, who the man is with one blue eye and one brown. The reader does not catch on easily, however, as to how Bailey can use his brains and make good use of his magic.

Lively, Penelope. **The Revenge of Samuel Stokes**. E. P. Dutton, 1981. 10 and up.

A clever tale, playful and filled with mystery. In the end, Tim, Jane, and Grandpa turn trickster and divert the ghost of Samuel Stokes. Laughable throughout. A child's perspective is strong.

McGinnis, Lila Sprague. **The Ghost Upstairs**. Illus. by Amy Rowen. Hastings House, 1982. 9-12.

The ghost of a boy who lived seventy-five years ago moves into Albert Shook's bedroom, keeps it tidy, disrupts the household, and helps to capture vandals in the new library. Plenty of adventure and humor, effective contrasting of personalities and eras (as seen through the eyes of the ghost), and lively dialogue keep this book moving at a brisk pace.

McMillan, Bruce. **Ghost Doll**. Houghton Mifflin, 1983. 4-8.

A simple text reinforces the story—clearly told in black-and-white photographs taken in a house built in 1812—of a girl who discovers a ghost doll in a haunted house and, through courage, transforms it into a real doll. (Picture book)

Norton, Andre, and Phyllis Miller. **House of Shadows**. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1984. 12 and up.

In this foreboding story, Mike, Susan, and Tucker, ages thirteen, eleven, and six, are haunted by the restless ghosts of their pre-Revolutionary War ancestors. The reader is held fast, from beginning to end, by the forceful blend of family history and contemporary life, of action and spectral vision.

Place, Marian T. **The First Astrowitches**. Illus. by Tom O'Sullivan. Dodd, Mead, 1984. 7-10.

Though the writing style lacks polish, there is enough humor in the wordplay and the characters to make the story of spaceship stowaways Witchard and Granwitch enjoyable reading.

Schwartz, Alvin, collector and reteller. **More Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark**. Illus. by Stephen Gammell. J. B. Lippincott, 1984. 9-12.

Ghosts, strange disappearances, corpses, and other macabre features mark this collection of stories. There is humor, too, and the drawings add a suitably scary tone.

Van Allsburg, Chris. **The Wreck of the Zephyr**. Illus. by author. Houghton Mifflin, 1983. 7-10.

An imaginative tale about a boy's experience with the magic of sailing—not on water but above it. Full-color illustrations are strikingly composed so that they reinforce the story's shift between reality and illusion. Children's Choices; Teachers' Choices. (Picture book)

Waldorf, Mary. **Thousand Camps**. Houghton Mifflin, 1982. 10-12.

A ghostly tale of the long-vanished Tarish people, their ceremonial camp on the coastal dunes of California, and the efforts of two present-day children, Chloe and Joaquin, to save the sacred dunes from real estate development. Mystery and suspense, combined with travel back in time, provide fast-paced, exciting reading. The setting is clearly developed, and the main characters represent strong, independent people.

Wisemar., David. **Jeremy Visick**. Houghton Mifflin, 1981. 11 and up.

Matthew Clemens is drawn into the past by the spirit of Jeremy Visick, a boy whose body was never recovered from the Wheal Maid Mining Disaster of 1852. A haunting tale; one that grips readers and compels them to read on, but one that borders on the macabre, particularly when Matthew drags Jeremy's bones to the opening on the hillside. For mature readers.

Wright, Betty Ren. **Ghosts beneath Our Feet**. Holiday House, 1984. 9-12.

A girl ghost haunts a house near an abandoned mine and, in the end, helps to save a family from disaster. The mystery is part of the story, but the treatment of family relationships is strong enough to stand by itself.

### Time Fantasy

Hamilton, Virginia. **The Magical Adventures of Pretty Pearl**. Harper & Row, 1983. 10 and up.

A merging of Reconstruction Era history with black folklore is used to explore events through the eyes of Pretty Pearl, an African god child, as she learns to use power. Through this technique of combining black myth and historical elements, readers learn of human frailties, of using gifts of power, and of events during this period.

Lunn, Janet. **The Root Cellar**. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1981. 10 and up.

Twelve-year-old Rose discovers an ordinary root cellar that transports her back to the 1860s and the Civil War. The book reads well and is hard to put down. The characters are believable, and the conclusion is satisfactory. For fans of historical fiction as well as fantasy. Teachers' Choices.

Park, Ruth. **Playing Beatie Bow**. Argo Books, 1983. 12 and up.

Through a mysterious chain of events, Abbie stumbles out of her lonely life in a modern Australian city and is drawn back into the past century. As she lives in the poor, crowded flat of the Bow family, the girl learns more of her amazing gift, as well as her need for love. A fascinating story from Australia. Teachers' Choices.

Rodowsky, Colby. **The Gathering Room**. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1981. 10-12.

Living in the caretaker's house in an old cemetery, a boy finds his safe, isolated family life threatened when an uninvited aunt arrives. As the conflict becomes painful, the boy seeks solace from the spirits who have befriended him. Eventually, he learns to reach out to the real world for friendship and support. An unusual blend of fantasy and realism, which is most successful in its imaginative aspects. Teachers' Choices.

Rodowsky, Colby. **Keeping Time**. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1983. 12 and up.

Playing "Greensleeves" on his recorder, a young street musician is transported to the London of Elizabeth I, where he learns from a waif his age how to communicate with his father. This sensitive portrait of a family coping with difficult changes includes a variety of characters with depth and complexity and features dialogue that captures the flavor of two periods while adding humor and dimension to character.

St. George, Judith. **The Mysterious Girl in the Garden.** Illus. by Margot Tomes. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1981. 8-12.

A masterfully written time fantasy about a young girl who is transported to 1805 when she enters a rhododendron garden. The sense of mystery and suspense builds throughout. The characters are well developed through dialogue and action. Realistic pen sketches let children see the differences between the two time periods.

Wiseman, David. **Adam's Common.** Houghton Mifflin, 1984. 10-14.

Historical fiction and fantasy combine in this time fantasy about Adam's Common, a park in the center of an industrial English town. The reader learns the history of the Common through the eyes of two fourteen-year-old children: Peggy, a modern resident, and William, a resident in 1849. Although one might expect it, the two never actually meet; rather, each senses the presence of the other. The transition between time periods is clear; the reader stays involved as the background of the Common and the struggle to keep it as a woodland is resolved.

### Toys and Dolls

Collodi, Carlo (adapted by Stephanie Spinner). **The Adventures of Pinocchio.** Illus. by Diane Goode. Random House, 1983. 6-12.

An adaptation that reads aloud smoothly. The text and illustrations capture the humor as well as the touching aspects of this story.

Collodi, Carlo (translated by Joseph Walker). **Pinocchio: The Adventures of a Little Wooden Boy.** Illus. by Richard Floethe. Philomel Books, 1982. 7-9.

This paperback edition includes a brief historical introduction and is decorated with unusual half-page woodcuts heading each chapter. The translation preserves much of the lively dialogue and imagery of the original tale.

Godden, Rumer. **Four Dolls.** Illus. by Pauline Baynes. Greenwillow Books, 1984. 6-9.

Four short English doll stories, each quite different from the others, are all well told. Impunity Jane is a pocket doll who craves adventure. The Fairy Doll has a touch of magic. Holly makes wishes come true, and Candy Floss is very clever. Color and black-and-white illustrations are used throughout.

Haseley, Dennis. **The Old Banjo**. Illus. by Stephen Gammell. Macmillan, 1983. 7-11.

Among many abandoned musical instruments on an old farm is a banjo that remembers the music of years gone by. As it plays, other instruments join in to bring enchanted music to the farmer and his son and to lift their spirits during the Depression. Rich with figurative language and accompanied by soft pencil drawings that sustain the mystery and magic

Kroll, Steven. **The Hand-Me-Down Doll**. Illus. by Evaline Ness. Holiday House, 1983. 4-8.

A neglected doll is passed from person to person until she finds an owner and a name. Black, white, and lavender illustrations are easily seen in group settings. Good for reading aloud. (Picture book)

Steig, William. **Yellow and Pink**. Illus. by author. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1984. 6 and up.

A cleverly comical discussion of creation by two wooden dolls, one yellow, one pink, sheds light on human endeavors to explain our origins. Older children will appreciate Yellow's creative and lengthy description of how he was made as tongue-in-cheek humor, which is reinforced by the surprise ending. Cartoon illustrations colored only in yellow and pink intensify the humor and the dichotomy. (Picture book)

Stevenson, James. **The Night after Christmas**. Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1981. 4-8.

A teddy bear and an old doll find themselves tossed in the trash can the day after Christmas. Illustrations carry this story more than text; streaks of white paint over all outdoor pictures give a true wintery effect.

### Unique Beings

Bodecker, N. M. **Quimble Wood**. Illus. by Branka Starr. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1981. 6-11.

A treasure for fantasy-loving children. Four tiny Quimbles have to survive in the wilderness after they are dropped accidentally from a car. The delicate pencil drawings illustrate for young readers the

resourcefulness of the little creatures as they find tiny tools and materials to create a tiny world.

Coville, Bruce. **Sarah and the Dragon.** Illus. by Beth Peck. J. B. Lippincott, 1984. 5-8.

Sarah's unicorn friend, Oakhorn, is grumpy, and she's bored. Whisked away by a dragon to his castle in the clouds, Sarah finds a surprise and more adventure than she'd imagined. Gray-shaded, double-page pencil drawings offer captivating detail. Suitable for beginning readers.

Davis, Maggie S. **Grandma's Secret Letter.** Illus. by John Wallner. Holiday House, 1982. 5-8.

A gentle, dreamlike fantasy in which a young girl encounters the lonely creatures described in a secret letter to her from her grandmother and comforts them all the way to her grandmother's house. Softly colored pencil illustrations give an otherworldly feeling.

dos Santos, Joyce Audy. **Henri and the Loup-Garou.** Pantheon Books, 1982. 8-10.

A good story grows during Henri's journey to the store. He traps a bolt of lightning and later uses it to drive away the Loup-Garou, a Canadian werewolf pursuing him through the forest.

Drescher, Henrik. **Simon's Book.** Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1983. 6-9.

A cohesive, if undemanding, plot, but the graphic illustrations convey the excitement of pursuit by a strange monster. The ending is tame, but satisfying.

Lorenz, Lee. **The Feathered Ogre.** Illus. by author. Prentice-Hall, 1981. All ages.

The unlikely hero, Jack, uses his wits to rescue a princess from the evil Feathered Ogre. Author-cartoonist Lorenz's whimsical illustrations give a modern-day touch to this story, which is based on an old Italian folktale.

Sommer-Bodenburg, Angela. **My Friend the Vampire.** Illus. by Amelie Glienke. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1984. 8-11.

A story enlivened by a young vampire who seems human—almost. Humor and well-written dialogue make up for a rather weak plot.

Spenser, Edmund (retold by Margaret Hodges). **Saint George and the Dragon**. Illus. by Trina Schart Hyman. Little, Brown, 1984. 8–12.

The text pages of this attractive book are framed with exquisitely detailed symbols from the story, and window-pane borders frame the illustrations. The effect is altogether stunning. It enhances the storytelling quality of this graceful retelling of a classic tale and heightens the drama. Caldecott Medal Book. (Picture book)

Swift, Jonathan. **Gulliver's Travels**. Illus. by David Small. William Morrow, 1983. 9 and up.

Dramatic, action-filled illustrations done in black and white with crosshatching and an abundance of lines make this classic story more accessible to a young audience. Children still enjoy this incredible journey to a land of giants and a land of tiny people.

Van Allsburg, Chris. **Jumanji**. Illus. by author. Houghton Mifflin, 1981. 6–9.

A haunting story with children playing a board game. Black-and-white illustrations depict the adventure with surrealist tones. Perspective is used to emphasize mystery and suspense. Caldecott Medal Book; Children's Choices.

## Science Fiction

Asimov, Janet, and Isaac Asimov. **Norby, the Mixed-Up Robot**. Walker, 1983. 10–14.

Jeff Wells purchases a secondhand robot to help him learn Martian Colony Swahili, which he must know in order to keep his scholarship at the Space Academy. The robot, who looks more like a barrel than a robot, proves to be more than just a tutor. It is equipped with many unusual abilities that help Jeff in and out of all sorts of adventures. The plot is a bit thin and the characters are sketchy, but the loveable little robot, Norby, should capture the imagination of young science fiction fans.

Asimov, Isaac, Martin Greenberg, and Charles Waugh, editors. **Young Mutants**. Harper & Row, 1984. 12 and up.

Another in a series of fine anthologies of science fiction stories. In these, all the children have special powers, sometimes terrifying, sometimes inspiring. The collection includes stories by Ray Brad-



bury, Alan E. Nourse, and other well-known science fiction writers. It should be well received by readers of the genre.

Bond, Nancy. **The Voyage Begun**. Argo Books, 1981. 12 and up.

The ravages of environmental pollution and changes in weather create food and energy shortages in this story set in the future. Paul is among those who band together to try to change the frightening picture. A well-knit plot and convincing characters. Teachers' Choices.

Collier, James Lincoln. **Planet out of the Past**. Macmillan, 1983. 10-14.

This fast-paced adventure, which moves from the future into the past, includes archeological details that will fascinate young readers and that are presented in an easy-to-read format. The book also includes thoughtful observations on the part of Char the main character, about the effects of violence on the daily life of the planet Pleisto and, by analogy, on the planet Earth.

Cooper, Margaret C. **Solution: Escape**. Illus. by Rod Burke. Walker, 1981. 9-12.

This story moves rapidly and keeps the reader engrossed as two boys living in the twenty-first century discover they are clones and part of a scientist's plan for eventual control of the world. The intelligence of the two boys makes the events plausible, and the conclusion is appropriate and effective.

Higdon, Hal. **The Team That Played in the Space Bowl**. E. P. Dutton, 1981. 9-12.

A space hero named Crash and a football star by the name of Zeus are two of the characters in this funny, unpredictable story. The Space Bowl game, played in the future, is entertaining even for nonfootball fans.

Hiller, B. B. **The Fantastic Journey of the Space Shuttle Astra**. Illus. by Jerry Zimmerman. Scholastic Book Services, 1984. 8-11.

An amusing, fast-paced, choose-your-own-plot book. The writing and format are clear enough to keep readers involved. The illustrations are cartoonish but suit the story. Other books in the Pick-a-Path series are *Jungle Adventure*; *The Magic Top Mystery*; and *The Mystery of the Missing Mummy*.

Hoover, H. M. **The Shepherd Moon**. Viking Press, 1984. 12 and up.

It takes a few pages to get into this story, but then it is impossible

to put down. Set in the forty-eighth century, this is the story of conflict between two cultures, one similar to twentieth-century life and the other much advanced. Descriptive phrases, concise writing, gripping adventure. For mature readers.

Hughes, Monica. **The Keeper of the Isis Light**. Argo Books, 1981. 10 and up.

First book in the Isis trilogy, followed by *The Guardian of Isis* and *The Isis Pedlar*. Hughes dramatically chronicles the lives of the first settlers from Earth and the generations to follow as they colonize the fourth planet of the sun. Visual imagery is strong and at times poetic; the reader believes that Isis, Olwen Pendennis, and the Guardian do exist. Child characters are distinctive; filled with courage and conviction, they take risks and seek the truth.

Jablonski, David, editor. **Behold the Mighty Dinosaur**. Elsevier/Nelson Books, 1981. 12 and up.

This collection of "dinosaur" tales should appeal to able readers who are also dinosaur buffs or science fiction fans. Each author represented "beholds" this mighty prehistoric beast from a unique perspective. The collection includes stories by Ray Bradbury, Paul Ash, and John Updike, with a preface by James O. Farlow.

Jones, Diana Wynne. **The Homeward Bounders**. Greenwillow Books, 1981. 10 and up.

A science fiction survival story in which Jamie and some friends attempt to find a stronghold and to confront the dangers of the planet. The complex plot will challenge good readers. Smooth writing.

Marzollo, Jean, and Claudio Marzollo. **Ruthie's Rude Friends**. Illus. by Susan Meddaugh. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1984. 5-8.

Ruthie from Earth is homesick, but with the help of two strange-looking new friends she finds that living on planet X10 can be exciting and fun. Beginning readers will thoroughly enjoy this action-packed science fiction story. Full-color illustrations complement the easy-to-read text, vividly revealing the exotic inhabitants of an alien world.

Ray, N. L. **There Was This Man Running**. Macmillan, 1981. 10-12.

An out-of-space creature in human form, a kidnapping, and industrial espionage are part of this involved, occasionally confusing, Australian science fiction story. The humor of struggles between

the protagonist, Cass Macken, and his intruding, irksome neighbor provide the necessary balance for this lively tale.

Sargent, Pamela. *Earthseed*. Harper & Row, 1983. 12 and up.

On a huge spaceship launched by the last inhabitants of Earth, test-tube children with brothers and sisters in suspended animation meet in the ship's wilderness preserve. Factions battle against one another and an inhospitable environment and, finally, face difficult social problems. Some effective delineation of a variety of characters and natural-sounding dialogue.

Senn, Steve. *Born of Flame: A Spacebread Story*. Argo Books, 1982. 10 and up.

The beautiful and charming white cat, Spacebread, appears again in this fast-moving adventure that covers half of a galaxy. In company with her friend the figlet, Spacebread wins out over spies and enemy agents. The plot is not outstanding but does involve the reader.

Walsh, Jill Paton. *The Green Book*. Illus. by Lloyd Bloom. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1982. 8-12.

A small group of survivors from a destroyed Earth create a new civilization on a beautiful planet of glass named Shine by Patti, the youngest settler. In language that is spare yet rich with imagery, the mysteries of the new world unfold for the children, who teach the adults how to provide food for their bodies and stories and myths for their spirits. An imaginative adventure, both exciting and thought provoking.

### Additional Modern Fantasy Books

Cameron, Eleanor. *The Wonderful Flight to the Mushroom Planet*. Illus. by Robert Henneberger. Atlantic Monthly Press Books, 1954. 9 and up.

Christopher, John. *The Prince in Waiting*. Macmillan, 1970. 10 and up. Other books in the Sword of the Spirits trilogy are *Beyond the Burning Lands* and *The Sword of the Spirits*.

Christopher, John. *The White Mountains*. Macmillan, 1967. 10 and up. Other books in the series are *The City of Gold and Lead* and *The Pool of Fire*.

Christopher, John. *Wild Jack*. Macmillan, 1974. 10 and up.

- de Paola, Tomie. *Strega Nona*. Illus. by author. Prentice-Hall, 1970. All ages.
- Garner, Alan. *The Owl Service*. William Collins, 1973. 11 and up.
- Highwater, Jamake. *Anpao: An American Indian Odyssey*. Illus. by Fritz Scholder. J. B. Lippincott, 1977. 10 and up.
- Hunter, Mollie. *The Walking Stones*. Illus. by Trina Schart Hyman. Harper & Row, 1970. 9 and up.
- Juster, Norton. *The Phantom Tollbooth*. Illus. by Jules Feiffer. Random House, 1961. 9 and up.
- Kästner, Erich (translated by James Kirkup). *The Little Man*. Illus. by Rick Schreiter. Alfred A. Knopf, 1966. 9 and up.
- Kelly, Eric P. *The Trumpeter of Krakow*, rev. ed. Illus. by Janina Doman-ska. Macmillan, 1966. 10 and up.
- Lawson, Robert. *Rabbit Hill*. Illus. by author. Viking Press, 1944. 8 and up.
- Langton, Jane. *The Swing in the Summerhouse*. Illus. by Erik Blegvad. Harper & Row, 1967. 11 and up.
- Le Guin, Ursula K. *A Wizard of Earthsea*. Illus. by Ruth Robbins. Parnassus Press, 1968. Other books in the Earthsea trilogy are *The Tombs of Atuan* and *The Farthest Shore*.
- L'Engle, Madeleine. *A Wrinkle in Time*. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1962. 10 and up. Also recommended are *A Wind in the Door* and *A Swiftly Tilting Planet*.
- Lively, Penelope. *The Ghost of Thomas Kempe*. Illus. by Anthony Maitland. E. P. Dutton, 1973. 10 and up.
- Nesbit, E. *Five Children and It*. T. Fisher Unwin, 1902; British Book Center, 1974. 10 and up.
- Nesbit, E. *The Phoenix and the Carpet*. T. Fisher Unwin, 1904; British Book Center, 1974. 10 and up.
- Norton, Mary. *The Borrowers Avenged*. Illus. by Beth and Joe Krush. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1982. 8-12.
- O'Brien, Robert C. *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH*. Illus. by Zena Bernstein. Atheneum, 1971. 9 and up.
- Slobodkin, Louis. *The Space Ship under the Apple Tree*. Illus. by author. Macmillan, 1952. 9 and up.
- Steele, Mary O. *Journey Outside*. Illus. by Rocco Negri. Viking Press, 1969. 9 and up.
- Walsh, Jill Paton. *A Chance Child*. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1978. 10 and up.
- Yep, Laurence. *Sweetwater*. Illus. by Julia Noonan. Harper & Row, 1973. 8 and up.

# Historical Fiction

## Prehistoric Times

Anderson, Margaret J. **Light in the Mountain**. Alfred A. Knopf, 1982. 11 and up.

Rana was chosen to be a living sacrifice to Atua Ahi, the God of Fire, but she survived to lead her people to a new life in the Land of the Long White Cloud, New Zealand's South Island. The book demonstrates how existence in a cold and harsh climate created challenges the early Maori people had to overcome through their own resources and the courage of their leader, Ahi-Rana.

Dyer, T. A. **A Way of His Own**. Houghton Mifflin, 1981. 9-13.

An exciting adventure that takes place in prehistoric times in North America. Shutok is left by his small band of people because they fear his crippled leg is a sign of evil. His courage and fortitude and his ability to survive will endear him to young readers. The culture and ways of early Native Americans serve as the substantial base on which the story is built.

García, Ann O'Neal. **Spirit on the Wall**. Holiday House, 1982. 10 and up.

Rescued at birth by her grandmother from the clan custom of killing the imperfect babies, Em grows up with crippled legs but a fine artistic talent. Em is strengthened by old Mat-Maw's love and nurturance and learns the art of cave painting from her brother, a boy as fiercely independent as his grandmother and sister.

Turnbull, Ann. **Maroo of the Winter Caves**. Clarion Books, 1984. 9-12.

A soft white root dug from under the snow tasted fresh and earthy. It made Maroo, a young girl living in the last Ice Age, feel the enjoyable summer coming nearer. But after the wonderful summer, with plenty of food on the shore, the long journey back to the

winter home in the mountains was a hard one for Maroo's family. The description of family life more than 25,000 years ago is refreshingly interesting.

## The Old World

Harnett, Cynthia. **The Cargo of the Madalena.** Illus. by author. Lerner Publications, 1984. 12 and up.

This challenging book will introduce mature readers to William Caxton and his printing press. Harnett's careful research provides fascinating descriptions of medieval life through her illustrations as well as her text. A reissue of a book originally published in England as *The Load of Unicorn*.

Haugaard, Erik Christian. **Leif the Unlucky.** Houghton Mifflin, 1982. 12 and up.

An interesting variety of believable characters, the last few survivors of the abandoned Norwegian colony in fifteenth-century Greenland, fight among themselves for possession of an island growing more desolate each year. A fast-moving suspenseful story in which those who grasp for wealth and power lose their lives.

Krasilovsky, Phyllis. **The First Tulips in Holland.** Illus. by S. D. Schindler. Doubleday, 1982. 5-9.

How did tulips get to Holland? One possible explanation is explored in this story, which is a celebration of the flower. Fields of tulips adorn the endpapers and illuminated letters used to begin the tale. Realistic full-color illustrations of life in Holland long ago will fascinate children. The oversize book abounds with characters from all walks of life.

Minard, Rosemary. **Long Meg.** Illus. by Philip Smith. Pantheon Books, 1982. 8-12.

Based on the legendary character of Long Meg, whose stories date back nearly four hundred years to the time of Henry VIII, this book recounts two of Long Meg's exploits: defeating a pompous knight in a sword duel while disguised in her father's clothes and saving the English-held city of Boulogne from recapture by a French army. The book is historically accurate and contains the author's notes about Long Meg at the end. Pencil drawings throughout the book add further historical detail.

Namioka, Lensey. **Village of the Vampire Cat**. Delacorte, 1981. 10 and up.

Two samurai, Zenta and Matsuzo, visit Zenta's former tea ceremony master. They find the whole village terrified by a series of vampirelike murders of young girls. Namioka's skillful plotting, exquisite use of language, and well-researched historical information create a mystery with a long-lasting "scare" scene—sustained suspense that many young readers will relish.

Nikly, Michelle (translated by Elizabeth Shub). **The Emperor's Plum Tree**. Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1982. 6–10.

An emperor's search for a plum tree to restore harmony to his garden leads to Musuko's tree, the home of his nightingale friend. Musuko's creativity inspires the emperor to order a better kind of perfection. Carefully composed art and calligraphy follow the best of the Oriental tradition. (Picture book)

Sutcliff, Rosemary. **Bonnie Dundee**. E. P. Dutton, 1984. 12 and up.

A tale of heroes and rogues, religious zealots, and soldiers who serve the king first; a love story; a story about conflict and war. Many readers will enjoy this fine story of seventeenth-century Scotland, with its many interesting characters and deft use of the language of the time and place.

Yarbro, Chelsea Quinn. **Locadio's Apprentice**. Harper & Row, 1984. 10 and up.

Young Enecus Cano's dream seems to come true when he is accepted as an apprentice to physician Locadio Priscus. His new skills are tested by one of the greatest natural disasters in history. Set in the final days of ancient Pompeii, the book illustrates Roman social and family life and the surprisingly sophisticated state of medical science.

## Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries

### *World*

Carter, Peter. **Children of the Book**. Oxford University Press, 1982. 11 and up.

Three young people from different cultures approach adulthood during the siege of Vienna by the Ottoman Turks in 1683: the

daughter of a Viennese baker, a Turkish infantry recruit, and the son of a minor Polish knight. The book imparts a sense of this sweeping historical event and, at the same time, captures the intensely personal fear of the besieged and the terror of combat.

Cross, Gilbert B. **A Hanging at Tyburn**. Atheneum, 1983. 10 and up.

George Fount's fortune changes quickly in this novel of eighteenth-century England. First he's a poor strolling player, then a leader building the first cross-country canal, then the victim of a false accusation related to the book's intriguing title. Maps and precise prose clarify the canal project. The plot sags in the middle but makes a good recovery.

Haugaard, Erik Christian. **A Boy's Will**. Illus. by Troy Howell. Houghton Mifflin, 1983. 8-11.

The "boy's will" in this book is Patrick's will—and a strong will it is! Patrick defies and eventually deserts his anti-American grandfather in order to warn John Paul Jones about a British ambush just off Valentia Island close to Patrick's Irish home. It's an uncompromising story, not gentle historical fiction at all. A most welcome addition to the genre.

#### *Colonial America and the Revolution*

Bulla, Clyde Robert. **Charlie's House**. Illus. by Arthur Dorros. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1983. 7-10.

Charlie Brig, born in England in 1736, is shipped off to America as an indentured servant who must endure a mean master. Circumstance and courage change Charlie's fortune, though this is far from a wish-fulfillment story. It has a ring of simple truth, and it's a good, easy book for introducing the genre. Pen illustrations are reminiscent of Early American Primitive art. Children's Choices.

Clapp, Patricia. **Witches' Children: A Story of Salem**. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1982. 9-12.

Any peculiar happening was suspect in the years of the Salem witch trials, late in the 1600s. In this book, a group of young girls pretending to have seizures created great danger for a number of people in the village. The story is told with attention to details that brings the historical period to life. Teachers' Choices.

Collier, James, and Christopher Collier. **Jump Ship to Freedom**. Delacorte Press, 1981. 12 and up.



This well-written historical novel holds the reader entranced. Set in the time of the Constitutional Convention, the story is told by Daniel Arobus, a slave and son of a Revolutionary War soldier, about his search for freedom against unreasonable odds. The authors explain, at the end of the book, what parts of the story are factual.

Fleischman, Paul. **Path of the Pale Horse**. Harper & Row, 1983. 10-12.

Amusing dialogue and a picaresque plot keep this novel moving. Set in Philadelphia during the yellow fever epidemic of 1793, the story is enlivened by a cast of dickensian characters. Fourteen-year-old Lep discovers that medical knowledge is not necessarily scientific and that people are not always what they claim to be. Teachers' Choices.

Fritz, Jean. **Traitor: The Case of Benedict Arnold**. Illus. by John Andre. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1981. 10 and up.

There is a feeling of suspense from the first page, especially for those who know history; there is a prediction that the reader will find clues for understanding the man whose name is a symbol for traitor. Research is evident, and speculations are so labeled. This vivid reconstruction of American history refrains from explaining, defending, or accusing.

Spears, Elizabeth George. **The Sign of the Beaver**. Houghton Mifflin, 1983. 9-12.

The ever-present concern about wilderness survival dominates this story about frontier life in territorial Maine during the late 1700s. Taught survival skills by Indians who befriend him, Matt lives alone for many months while his father journeys to Massachusetts to bring the rest of the family to the new homestead. A survival story that documents the growth of an impetuous boy-man, this well-told tale is historical fiction at its best. Children's Choices; Newbery Honor Book; Teachers' Choices.

## Nineteenth Century

### *World*

Beatty, Patricia. **Jonathan Down Under**. William Morrow, 1982. 10 and up.

This story of Jonathan Cole's experiences in an 1849 gold-mining

camp in Australia is based on the author's research about the period. Although the story is generally well constructed, the use of Australian terms and dialect sometimes seems self-conscious.

Gerrard, Jean. **Matilda Jane**. Illus. by Roy Gerrard. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1981. All ages.

In this delightful story told in rhyme, the reader is whisked back to another century, traveling with the young Matilda Jane by train to the English seashore. The beautiful full-color illustrations nostalgically recapture a seaside holiday in a time gone by. (Picture book)

Langford, Sondra Gordon. **Red Bird of Ireland**. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1983. 10-14.

The excitement and adventure of Ireland during the time of the potato famine are portrayed in this well-written story explaining the Irish immigration to the United States. The character of Aderyn (Red Bird) is very likable and believable.

Monjo, F. N. **Prisoners of the Scrambling Dragon**. Illus. by Arthur Geisert. Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1980. 7-10.

Thirteen-year-old Sam Dwight sails as cabin boy on his uncle's ship to Canton, finds that the boat is participating in the opium traffic that plagued China in the early nineteenth century, and is taken prisoner aboard a Chinese smuggler's ship. The simple story line serves as a backdrop to introduce young readers to some of the history of this era.

Moskin, Marietta. **A Royal Gift**. Illus. by Catherine Stock. Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1982. 6-8.

After looking all over London, Miss Prudence and Miss Agatha find a suitable gift for the prince's upcoming wedding, the king and queen pieces of an ancient chess set. Pastel vignettes reflect the romantic tone and historical setting of this easy-to-read story with a surprise ending.

Sandin, Joan. **The Long Way to a New Land**. Illus. by author. Harper & Row, 1981. 6-8.

Carl Erik and his family leave Sweden for a new chance in America. The year is 1868. The pain of goodbye, the discomfort below deck, and the joy of hope upon arrival all are felt by the reader. Short sentences and easy vocabulary flow well in this book, and the writing contains good imagery.

Southall, Ivan. **The Golden Goose**. Greenwillow Books, 1981. 10 and up.

In the second novel of a trilogy set in Australia in the 1850s, Custard is rescued by Preacher Tom. Believing the boy possesses the power to divine gold, Tom turns prospector and coerces Custard into searching for riches that will set Tom's son free from punishment for kidnapping. Humorous language play, fast-paced action, and character reality and ingenuity will attract readers and keep them reading. Brimming with hilarity; raucous at times. The first book in the series is *King of the Sticks*.

Yep, Laurence. **The Serpent's Children**. Harper & Row, 1984. 11 and up.

A moving novel of a family's fight for survival within the larger struggle of the Chinese against both Manchu and British domination. The inner and outer struggles of the heroine and her brother will keep readers turning pages. The foreign setting and time come alive with Yep's rich language and masterful storytelling.

*United States: Early in the Century*

Branson, Karen. **Streets of Gold**. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1981. 12 and up.

New challenges are faced as Maureen O'Connor and her family immigrate to America to escape the Irish potato famine. This family, first depicted in *The Potato Eaters*, struggles to deal with prejudice and poverty in the United States. A light bit of intrigue and romance are thrown in to make a satisfying novel. The dialogue conveys a good sense of the lilting flow of Irish speech.

Coerr, Eleanor. **The Bell Ringer and the Pirates**. Illus. by Joan Sandin. Harper & Row, 1983. 6-8.

Pio wants very much to ring the bells of the mission at San Juan Capistrano, but he has to earn the honor by learning responsibility. Although both the plot and language are almost too plain, the real historical background of the bells at the mission and the pirate attack in 1818 add some color to the story. Orange and blue combine to provide appropriate earth-tone illustrations.

Kirby, Susan E. **Ike and Porker**. Houghton Mifflin, 1983. 9-14.

The rough-and-tumble, yet-untamed Illinois wilderness in the 1830s is the setting for this story of a young boy who yearns to be a man.

The adventures and humorous misadventures will give readers insight into the life of the early settlers. The story is rich in character development and setting.

Lasky, Kathryn. **Beyond the Divide**. Macmillan, 1983. 12 and up.

An intense novel of survival based on research on the wagon trains crossing the plains in the late 1840s. Views of prairie, mountains, people, and events are seen through the eyes of a fourteen-year-old Amish girl and give the reader a new perspective on the rigors of life on a wagon train. The style calls for a mature reader, but the book is hard to put down. Teachers' Choices.

Lord, Athena V. **A Spirit to Ride the Whirlwind**. Macmillan, 1981. 10 and up.

The working conditions at a Massachusetts mill in 1836 result in a strike involving twelve-year-old Binnie, despite her dreams to accumulate enough money to escape to a better life. But it is the company boarders at her widowed mother's house that change her life. The characters are well drawn and provide a clear picture of these times and events.

Moeri, Louise. **Save Queen of Sheba**. E. P. Dutton, 1981. 11-12.

Surviving a wagon train massacre, twelve-year-old King David finds himself left alone with his sister, Queen of Sheba. Responsible for saving himself and also the spoiled six-year-old, he learns much about what life requires of a grownup.

Wallin, Luke. **In the Shadow of the Wind**. Bradbury Press, 1984. 10-15.

An uncommon love story set in the South in the 1830s. The destinies of a settler and a young Indian woman are interwoven during a time of upheaval for the Indians. Eviction from the Indians' ancestral lands makes this a time of much hatred on the parts of both whites and Indians. Readers will identify with the strong characters in this dramatic story of frontier life told from both points of view.

*United States: Civil War and Westward Expansion*

Baker, Betty. **The Night Spider Case**. Macmillan, 1984. 9-12.

Sneaky Frances bullies Lambert, alias Spike LeGrew, into letting her help in his detective work. Their search for buried treasure

produces far more exciting results than they could have imagined. Fast paced and filled with intriguing details of New York in the 1890s, this adventure story will have wide appeal, particularly to readers who have some background knowledge of life in a big city.

Beatty, Patricia. **Melinda Takes a Hand.** William Morrow, 1983. 10-14.

Thirteen-year-old Melinda, "not a mere child." has ways of taking a hand in everyone's problems when she and her older sister are stranded in Goldendale, Colorado, in 1893. The story draws its unusual incidents from historical records, from the misunderstood letter to the sculpture of a horse and rider. Certain to hold attention, this fast-paced adventure recounts Melinda's unconventional solutions for Goldendale's problems.

Beatty, Patricia. **Turn Homeward, Hannalee.** William Morrow, 1984. 10-12.

With many books of historical fiction to her credit, the author tackles a Civil War mystery: the dispersing of textile workers from Georgia to the North so that their skills could no longer help the Confederates. What happened to three of these workers—twelve-year-old Hannalee, her younger brother Jem, and their soldier brother's sweetheart—forms this story of youthful endurance against the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune.

Coerr, Eleanor. **The Big Balloon Race.** Illus. by Carolyn Croll. Harper & Row, 1981. 8-10.

A slight plot and stylized illustrations mar the presentation somewhat, but this story of an 1882 balloon race has historical interest and some excitement.

Gammell, Stephen. **Git Along, Old Scudder.** Illus. by author. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1983. 5-8.

Old Scudder draws a map to get himself home and, on further adventures, adds such landmarks as Sneaky Tree Road and Two Nose Pass. The book is best read aloud after a little practice on strong dialect. Children will enjoy identifying landmarks, especially the elusive fort. (Picture book)

Haynes, Mary. **Pot Belly Tales.** Illus. by Michael J. Deraney. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1982. 8-11.

This warmly illustrated book traces the biography of a pot belly

stove from manufacture in 1888 through a series of owners to the present day. Each vignette reveals a glimpse of a different period of American history. The technique is interesting, although one might wish for more development of at least one generation of characters or one episode.

Lehmann, Linda. **Tilli's New World**. Elsevier/Nelson Books, 1981. 10-14.

After a long separation, Tilli is reunited with her immigrant family in Missouri in the 1880s. Their bonds of love provide the strength for the challenge of settling in the new country. Tilli, determined to get an education, develops resourcefulness that contributes to the growth of the entire family. The author notes that the story is based on her mother's youth, and her style communicates warmth for the entire setting and family. Sequel to *Better Than a Princess*.

McCunn, Ruthanne Lum. **Pie-Biter**. Illus. by You-shan Tang. Design Enterprises of San Francisco, 1983. 7-9.

Hoi, a skinny Chinese boy working on building the railroads in the United States during the late 1860s, gains in size and strength by eating American pies instead of rice. A note describes the story as a legend that was preserved orally by pioneers. The scriptlike writing style makes this book a candidate for dramatization.

Perez, N. A. **The Slopes of War: A Novel of Gettysburg**. Houghton Mifflin, 1984. 11 and up.

This historically accurate account of the terrible Battle of Gettysburg is told mainly through the eyes of the Summerhill family, who have soldiers fighting on both sides. The perspective is even-handed, since the writer is sympathetic to both sides, illuminating the causes of the conflict in a manner that is not too simplistic or preachy. War and all its ugliness are realistically depicted. The ending gives the Gettysburg Address new meaning for young adult readers.

Rylant, Cynthia. **When I Was Young in the Mountains**. Illus. by Diane Goode. E. P. Dutton, 1982. 5-8.

The beautiful illustrations are more descriptive and appealing in describing the pioneer life-style than is the text. The terms and ideas will need explanation to be understood by young children. Caldecott Honor Book; Teachers' Choices. (Picture book)

Talbot, Charlene Joy. *The Sodbuster Venture*. Atheneum, 1982. 10-14.

Homesteading with her fiancé is Belle's ambition, but when she arrives in Kansas, Mr. Nelson is dead. With young Maude's help, however, she stays to battle with nature, fire, and those pesky Coddington brothers. Simply sorting out the good and bad is puzzle enough for this city girl, but there are a few good turns in store. The book is fast moving, yet realistic in portraying homesteading on the Kansas prairie.

Wisler, G. Clifton. *Buffalo Moon*. Lodestar Books, 1984. 10-14.

Fourteen-year-old Willie leaves his family for the summer and lives with a Comanche tribe. This story of adventure also provides insight into life-styles of the Comanches over a century ago.

Wisler, G. Clifton. *Winter of the Wolf*. Lodestar Books, 1980. 10 and up.

When his father and older brothers leave to fight for the Confederacy, fourteen-year-old T. J. is left to work and protect the family's Texas homestead. Together with a young Comanche he saves and befriends, T. J. finds his courage tested in a life-or-death confrontation with a great wolf straight out of Comanche legends.

## Twentieth Century

### *World: Beginning of the Century to World War II*

Cotich, Felicia. *Valda*. Coward-McCann, 1983. 10 and up.

A single pancake for a day . . . worn shoes . . . a shrunken sweater . . . Dreaming is the only way for Valda, an eighth-grade girl, to escape from the harsh reality of poverty during the 1930s depression in Australia. By the end of the book, Valda has learned how to grow out of being a dreamer and to be able to face reality with confidence.

Cox, David. *Tin Lizzie and Little Nell*. Illus. by author. Bodley Head, 1982. 4-7.

In 1933, two farmers hold fast to different ideas: Winterbottom swears by his motor car, and Billy Benson believes avidly in his horse and sulky to provide transportation. The story moves quickly, with watercolor illustrations emphasizing the setting. The book provides a lesson in opposites and the outcome when opposites attract.

Gerrard, Roy. **The Favershams**. Illus. by author. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1983. 5-8.

Highly stylized, detailed watercolors and a rhyming text illustrate the life of Charles Augustus Faversham from pram to old age. The subject matter may hold more interest for adults, but the text is well paced and shows a lively and humanistic view of Victorian life. (Picture book)

Hautzig, Esther. **A Gift for Mama**. Illus. by Donna Diamond. Viking Press, 1981. 8-12.

Young Sara, tired of making the gifts she gives, is determined to buy her mother the pretty black satin slippers that sit in a shop window. How Sara earns money for the gift and how her mother reacts to it form the core of this warm story of a Jewish family in Poland before the second World War. Realistic illustrations are sensitive and authentic.

Mark, Michael. **Toba**. Illus. by Neil Waldman. Bradbury Press, 1984. 9-11.

The book contains nine stories featuring Toba, a ten-year-old Jewish girl living in Poland around 1910, and focusing on deep emotions rather than events. The rhythmical tone and the tender black-and-white pencil sketches give an idyllic feeling to the book, making it most accessible to the reflective reader.

Morpurgo, Michael. **War Horse**. Greenwillow Books, 1982. 9-12.

Joey the horse goes from master to master and from an English farm to France during World War I. The plot, though predictable to animal story readers familiar with *Black Beauty* or *Call of the Wild* and somewhat heavy on coincidence, is interesting, and the many characters are well developed. The first-person narrative by the horse detracts somewhat from the otherwise realistic background.

Sevela, Ephraim (translated by Richard Lourie). **Why There Is No Heaven on Earth**. Harper & Row, 1982. 11 and up.

This vivid book should not be lost or neglected. Its boy narrator, describing the adventures of his boyhood hero, gives a classic lesson in point of view. The scene is a Jewish community in pre-World War II Russia. The theme is the resilience of childhood amid poverty, family life that includes cruelty to children, and impending tragedy from the wider world. The boys and the setting remain in the memory long after the book is closed.



Vogel, Ilse-Margret. **Tikhon**. Illus. by author. Harper & Row, 1984. 9-12.

"Who is Tikhon. . . . And why is he in our cellar?" Tikhon is a Russian soldier who, at the close of World War I, can't get home again. His hideout is the cellar of a well-off German family, and his friendship with Inge, the lonely child, is tender and near tragic. As always, this author succeeds with a fresh, sensitive theme.

Yolen, Jane. **Children of the Wolf**. Viking Press, 1984. 12-16.

The dramatic and tragic story of two young girls who were found living with wolves in India is told through the eyes of a child at the orphanage who befriends them. Many moral issues are raised that should lead to intense discussion of society, religion, and human characteristics. The book is tautly written, and the characters are fully developed individuals who inspire compassion and ire. The epilogue tells what is true about the story through a discussion of the research done by the author, an expert on feral children.

#### *World: World War II*

Allan, Mabel Esther. **A Dream of Hunger Moss**. Dodd, Mead, 1983. 10 and up.

When Alice returns to the scene of her mother's childhood summers, she resolves to unravel the mystery of Reugen, Mother's youthful friend who disappeared without a word. Set in World War II England, the story recounted by Alice urges the reader to the exciting conclusion.

Degens, T. **The Visit**. Viking Press, 1982. 10-14.

A young girl comes across the diaries of an aunt who died from a Nazi bullet during World War II and recreates the events leading up to the death. In the light of the diaries, her living aunt, a sister of the dead girl, seems no longer a friend but someone to despise. The story is told with vivid description that establishes a terrifying contrast between the safe present and the world of the Nazis. Teachers' Choices.

Fife, Dale. **Destination Unknown**. Unicorn Books, 1981. 10 and up.

Stranded in the Faeroe Islands off Iceland during World War II, twelve-year-old Jon stows away on a commandeered fishing boat

in an attempt to rejoin his parents. The previously pampered young Norwegian must earn his place as a crew member through hard work and courage. The first-person narration bridges the distance between reader and protagonist.

Friedman, Ina R. **How My Parents Learned to Eat.** Illus. by Allen Say. Houghton Mifflin, 1984. 5-8.

An American sailor whose ship was stationed in Yokohama, Japan, met and married a Japanese schoolgirl. Their young daughter tells the story of the naïve young couple who were afraid of having dinner together because neither knew the dining etiquette of the other's culture. The illustrations depict the people and everyday life in Japan several decades ago and create a nostalgic background for the simple story.

Magorian, Michelle. **Good Night, Mr. Tom.** Harper & Row, 1982. 9-12.

Despite the book's length and some overlong episodes, the story of Willie Beach's recovery from an unhappy existence with his mother is convincing. An evacuee from wartime London, he is placed with an elderly widower whom he calls "Mr. Tom." The growth of their relationship is told with sensitivity and is enlivened by descriptions of the village life that contributes to the change in Willie.

Orlev, Uri (translated by Hillel Halkin). **The Island on Bird Street.** Houghton Mifflin, 1984. 10 and up.

Mother disappears. Father is taken by Germans. An eleven-year-old Jewish boy in Poland during World War II has to survive on his own, hiding in abandoned ruins where his father promised to find him. The plot development of the first half of the book is excellent, although it is weakened in the latter half by some unrealistic strengths the boy shows. Teachers' Choices.

Southall, Ivan. **The Long Night Watch.** Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1983. 12 and up.

The story of the doomed group of religious believers designated as S.W.O.R.D.—who set out from Australia for the island of Tangu Tangu during World War II to prepare for the end of the world and God's coming—is powerfully told from the points of view of five young people. The complex plotting that goes forward and

backward in time (each chapter's time period is designated) gives the telling an almost dreamlike quality. The book is prefaced with background information of a factual nature and the problems in publishing the work.

*United States: Early in the Century*

Baylor, Byrd. **The Best Town in the World.** Illus. by Ronald Himler. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1983. 8 and up.

A nostalgic look at life in a place that seems real and yet is touched with magic; everything is better and bigger. Rich prose is structured in the form of verse; each word seems chosen with care. Other children may hear echoes of what they heard while sitting on Grandpa's lap. Full-color illustrations done in soft watercolors are awash with light and complement the text, picturing a time that used to be. (Picture book)

Beatty, Patricia. **Eight Mules from Monterey.** William Morrow, 1982. 10-13.

In 1916, a librarian and her two children start out with a mule-skin guide from Monterey, California, into the rugged, roadless Santa Lucia Mountains to establish a branch library. Their exciting, sad, humorous, and frightening adventures are all seen through the eyes of thirteen-year-old Fayette. Drama and dangers are vivid but within reason.

Branscum, Robbie. **Cheater and Flitter Dick.** Viking Press, 1983. 9-13.

Strong characterization, based on conflict, will quickly involve young readers in the story of Cheater, her drunkard father, and an interesting array of other characters. The atmosphere of the Arkansas hill country is evoked through imagery and the skilled use of regional dialect. The story is quick paced, involving the reader immediately through the use of first-person narration.

Brown, Irene Bennett. **Morning Glory Afternoon.** Atheneum, 1982. 10 and up.

Blaming herself for the accidental death of a boyfriend, Jessy Faber leaves her ranch home after high school graduation to take a job as the switchboard operator of a small Kansas town. By defying the terrorist activities of the Ku Klux Klan, she overcomes her self-

imposed guilt. Small-town America—its prejudices and counterbalancing warmth—is nicely recreated by this author with a good sense of the 1920s period.

Cohen, Barbara. *Gooseberries to Oranges*. Illus. by Beverly Brodsky. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1982. 7–10.

In brisk, terse prose, Fanny recounts her frightening childhood immigration from the gooseberries of Eastern Europe to the oranges of New York. Illustrations contrast the darkness of war and death in the Old Country with the colorful libraries, movies, abundant food, and opportunities to work in America. (Picture book)

Ellison, Lucile Watkins. *A Window to Look Through*. Illus. by Judith Gwyn Brown. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1982. 8–11.

This is the third "Lucy" book of semi-autobiographical, well-narrated material about a close-knit family, its difficulty in finding roots, and its eventual strength in the midst of death, sickness, and near poverty. Daddy gets hired in Mississippi as principal of a school, but he loses his job. Lucy must endure rattlesnakes, fights over evolution, and life with a new rural teacher—but the overall mood is idyllic. Above all, the book is sincere: it is clearly a work of love, as are the earlier two volumes: *Butter on Both Sides* and *The Tie That Binds*.

Homola, Priscilla. *The Willow Whistle*. Illus. by Ted Lewin. Dodd, Mead, 1983. 9–12.

An old-fashioned plot about a domineering preacher father and preadolescent love, a blizzard that helps resolve the conflict between father and daughter, and a sense of rural justice make a readable, aptly detailed book that intermediate-grade readers will find warm and interesting, a helpful introduction to this not-so-popular genre.

Hurwitz, Johanna. *The Rabbi's Girls*. Illus. by Pamela Johnson. William Morrow, 1982. 8–12.

Eleven-year-old Carrie Levin, the third of Rabbi Levin's five daughters, faces prejudice from both gentiles and members of her father's congregation. This family story is honestly told; it is really a story of what it means to be courageous in adversity. The flow of conversation is especially good.

Irwin, Hadley. **I Be Somebody**. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1984. 9-12.

Free land, fat fish, and no school. Moving to Athabasca, Canada, sounds exciting to Rap, a ten-year-old black boy living in Oklahoma in 1910. Aunt Spicy thinks that Athabasca, far from the racial prejudices of the United States, will be a better place for Rap to be somebody. Although the plot in the first half of the book is extremely slow, it develops nicely in the second half.

Mitchell, Barbara. **The Old Fasnacht**. Illus. by Priscilla Kiedrowski. Carolrhoda Books, 1984. 6-9.

In this account of a Pennsylvania Dutch family and their daily activities, the story centers around young Jacob and his Grossdawdi. The dialect and speech patterns of Pennsylvania Dutch add authenticity to the text but could be distracting to younger readers. Alternating black-and-white and full-color illustrations depict lifestyles well. The book includes an introduction and glossary of terms, as well as descriptions of some barn hex signs.

Saunders, Susan. **Fish Fry**. Illus. by S. D. Schindler. Viking Press, 1982. 4-9.

The book captures the lazy mood of an all-day picnic in turn-of-the-century Texas without being overly nostalgic. There is subtle humor in many of the day's incidents. Realistic, soft watercolors are filled with details of life from that time. (Picture book)

Smith, E. Boyd. **The Railroad Book**. Illus. by author. Houghton Mifflin, 1983. 8-12.

A classic book about railroads in the early twentieth century that young train buffs will greatly appreciate. The story of railroads and how they served this country seventy years ago is told through the experiences of two children, Betty and Bob. Descriptive language and skillfully created illustrations give the reader a chance to experience train life in another era.

Snyder, Carol. **Ike and Mama and Trouble at School**. Illus. by Charles Robinson. Coward-McCann, 1983. 8-12.

To be Jewish in the 1920s in New York has its drawbacks—mostly Ziggy the bully and that letter from the principal. Ike has other problems and a mother who is more than willing to get involved. Ike's (and Mama's) solutions are full of humor and warmth, which are also reflected in the soft pencil illustrations.

Wiegand, Roberta. **The Year of the Comet.** Bradbury Press, 1984. 9-11.

To ten-year-old Sarah Lewis, Halley's comet "looked about as dangerous as the star on top of a Christmas tree," despite some people's prediction that it might destroy the earth. The world, for Sarah, is Ponder's Mill, Nebraska, in 1910. The book's twelve nostalgic adventures are light and pleasant, with historical detail well integrated into the plot.

*United States: Depression Years*

Burch, Robert. **Christmas with Ida Early.** Viking Press, 1983. 8-12.

In a sequel to *Ida Early Comes over the Mountain*, Burch has produced another outstanding book with this story about Ida and the motherless family she cares for. With her droll sense of humor and her tall tales, Ida sets some funny events spinning. The production of a Christmas tableau and the matchmaking efforts of the children help weave together this story of a warm and spirited family. Children will love to hear this story read aloud.

Crofford, Emily. **A Matter of Pride.** Illus. by Jim LaMarche. Carolrhoda Books, 1981. 9-12.

A story that focuses on the problems a ten-year-old girl experiences during the Depression. When Meg's father loses his job, the family must move to an Arkansas plantation, which results in a different life-style for the whole family and perhaps most for Meg's mother. A sensitive treatment of hardship and its effects on family relationships. Teachers' Choices.

Crofford, Emily. **Stories from the Blue Road.** Illus. by C. A. Nobens. Carolrhoda Books, 1982. 8-10.

Five lively, warm, richly detailed stories about a rural Arkansas family during the Depression aren't depressing in the least. They're filled with realistic motives and actions fueled by love and strong character—and a pig named Otis. Clearly delineated characters, realistic situations and some unusual ones, and a setting that captures the time and place are conveyed with simplicity and economy. The stories are told with sensitivity and humor.

Cross, Helen Reeder. **Isabella Mine.** Illus. by Catherine Stock. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1982. 8-12.

Eleven-year-old Molly does nearly everything with her sometimes

best friend, sometimes enemy, Kate. Their sixth-grade year in the small Tennessee mining community is filled with new adventures such as rescuing a man trapped in the mines, playing the organ for a country funeral, and seeing a moonshiner shot. Readers will appreciate Molly's jealousies and joys as she finds her own special talents.

Hamilton, Virginia. **Willie Bea and the Time the Martians Landed.** Greenwillow Books, 1983. 10-15.

A story that details the effects of Orson Welles's Martian broadcast on Halloween of 1938 on a black family in rural Ohio. The members of the family are each unique and interesting; some are believably bizarre. Readers will enjoy the dramatic story, which builds to an excited climax by the end of the day. Teachers' Choices.

Hooks, William H. **Circle of Fire.** Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1983. 9-11.

At Christmastime in 1936, the life of an eleven-year-old son of a well-to-do white farm family in North Carolina is suddenly disrupted with fears and worries when he overhears Ku Klux Klan members planning to attack a band of gypsies. The book will acquaint young readers with some of the racial problems of those days.

Jones, Adrienne. **A Matter of Spunk.** Harper & Row, 1983. 11 and up.

Set in the pre-Depression era of the 1920s, this book combines humor with some eerie situations that develop when a mother and her daughters make their home in a theosophical colony. This sequel to *Whistle Down a Dark Lane* is for mature readers.

Klass, Sheila Solomon. **Nobody Knows Me in Miami.** Charles Scribner's Sons, 1981. 9-12.

Ten-year-old Miriam has a hard decision to make in this story of a Jewish family during the hard times of 1937 in Brooklyn. The book provides a good look at Jewish customs and family life and presents believable, likable characters. The conclusion is predictable but acceptable. A first-person account told with humor underlying the entire story.

Potter, Marian. **A Chance Wild Apple.** William Morrow, 1982. 8-12.

Maureen McCracken, age eleven, has hoped that the arrival of her uncle's family will bring new friends to her rural Missouri town,

but she is disappointed at every turn. Competing and coping are very much a part of life during the Depression, and Maureen may not even be able to claim that wild apple tree down by the fence. Well-developed characters populate this story of dashed hopes and unexpected joys.

Thrasher, Crystal. **End of a Dark Road**. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1983. 11 and up.

Despite a good many tragic events—child abuse, murder, maiming, and death—this well-written story about a young girl growing up during the Depression ends on a bright and hopeful note. The protagonist, fifteen-year-old Seely, who also appeared in *The Dark Didn't Catch Me* and *Between Dark and Daylight*, is engaging and realistic. For mature readers.

Uchida, Yoshiko. **The Best Bad Thing**. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1983. 9–12.

Rinko, an eleven-year-old Japanese-American girl living in California in the late 1930s, develops a better understanding of people and life by going through a series of misfortunes. The story creates in the reader the feelings of alienation, rejection, and hope that a minority child of that time experienced.

Uchida, Yoshiko. **A Jar of Dreams**. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1981. 9–12.

Rinko has enough problems just being a Japanese-American girl in California during the Depression. The strong prejudice against the Japanese makes Rinko feel ashamed of what she is. Her negative self-image and passive attitude begin to change when Aunt Waka arrives from Japan. The process that Rinko and her family go through to fight prejudice is poignantly described. This is a heart-warming story for younger readers.

*United States: World War II and Aftermath*

Bograd, Larry. **Los Alamos Light**. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1983. 10–14.

Sixteen-year-old Maggie adjusts to life on a secret government base in New Mexico during World War II. Many descriptive accounts of desert scenes and of the life-styles of the Native Americans in the area add interest. The book reads smoothly and quickly, with an appropriate conclusion to Maggie's reactions to the work of the



scientists. Younger readers might not be aware of the work of the base until the conclusion, more mature readers will probably understand from the beginning.

**Branscum, Robbie. *Spud Tackett and the Angel of Doom*. Viking Press, 1983. 9–12.**

Living with his grandmother in the Arkansas hills, Spud Tackett finds life disrupted by two simultaneous events. A city-slicker cousin whose father has gone to fight in World War II comes to stay, and a con artist who claims to be an angel from God comes to bilk the simple hill folk. Grandma predictably saves the day. Some readers may find it difficult to get past the unpleasant cover illustrations and the matching mood of the first few pages.

**Campbell, Barbara. *A Girl Called Bob and a Horse Called Yoki*. Dial Press, 1982. 9–12.**

An interesting account of a nine-year-old black girl living in St. Louis with her mother and grandmother during World War II. There are a variety of interesting characters, some suspense, and a happy ending when the father returns from the navy. The first-person narrator tells the entire story in the present tense, which simply doesn't work well in this story set nearly forty years ago.

**Chaikin, Miriam. *Lower! Higher! You're A Liar!* Illus. by Richard Egielski. Harper & Row, 1984. 8–10.**

Another story about Molly and her life in Brooklyn during World War II, a story filled with warmth, humor, and compassion. Chaikin writes with the child at the center of events, and the reader easily identifies with Molly as she attempts to overcome the neighborhood bully, Celia. Molly may be jubilant in the end, but the reader may question what will happen to Celia.

**Conford, Ellen. *Lenny Kandell, Smart Aleck*. Illus. by Walter Gaffney-Kessell. Little, Brown, 1983. 9–13.**

Growing up in the 1940s after his father is killed during World War II is a challenge for Lenny, whose life seems to consist of a series of misadventures. The dialogue is witty, especially between Lenny, a would-be stand-up comic, and his best friend, Artie, who loves to use big words. Children will like the jokes Lenny tells to his deadpan teacher in this fast-paced novel.

**Delton, Judy. *Kitty in High School*. Houghton Mifflin, 1984. 9–14.**

Problems of growing up are seen through the eyes of a young girl who is just beginning school at an all-girl Catholic high school in the 1940s. Today's readers will especially enjoy the girls' reactions to the new television and their problems with the prom dress code. The dialogue rings true, as do the characters and their actions. Another in a series of books about Kitty.

Frascano, Edward. **Eddie Spaghetti on the Homefront**. Illus. by author. Harper & Row, 1983. 8-12.

A defense club, a victory garden, and scrap drives are all part of ten-year-old Eddie's summer during World War II. Today's readers can relate to the light-hearted, humorous adventures, yet the book also depicts life in the United States during the war years. Full-page cartoon-style illustrations.

Froehlich, Margaret Walden. **Hide Crawford Quick**. Houghton Mifflin, 1983. 10-12.

In small-town Pennsylvania in 1942, the baby born to the Prayther family is not a blessed event. He is handicapped—one foot is missing. The family's sense of shame, highlighted against a culture that values "normalcy" above all else, provides a lesson for our own times.

Lord, Athena V. **Today's Special: Z.A.P. and Zoe**. Illus. by Jean Jenkins. Macmillan, 1984. 9-12.

A story about children growing up in a Greek immigrant family living in a small New York town in 1939. Much of the action focuses on growing-up experiences common to children of all eras, but the concluding sections do deal with the onset of the war.

Paulsen, Gary. **Popcorn Days and Buttermilk Nights**. Lodestar Books, 1983. 10-14.

The story of a troubled boy's passage to manhood, set in rural Minnesota in the 1940s. It depicts the sensitive development of characters who grow and change because of their determination to make a better life. The evocative use of description nearly allows the reader to see, feel, and smell the farm and blacksmith shop.

Petroski, Catherine. **The Summer That Lasted Forever**. Houghton Mifflin, 1984. 10 and up.

This summer is a tough one for Molly, an eleven-year-old girl living in a small Illinois town during the end of the 1940s. First, Molly's

father plans to sell her beloved mare. Then an accident in the coal mine kills a classmate's father. The resulting deep emotions force Molly toward understanding and independence. Although the historical setting seems neglected, there is reader involvement in the characterization of Molly.

### Additional Historical Fiction Books

- Armstrong, William. *Souder*. Illus. by James Barkley. Harper & Row, 1969. 10-12.
- Bawden, Nina. *The Peppermint Pig*. J. B. Lippincott, 1975. 10-14.
- Benary-Isbert, Margot (translated by Clara Winston and Richard Winston). *The Ark*. Harcourt, Brace & World, 1953. 10-14.
- Blos, Joan. *A Gathering of Days: A New England Girl's Journal, 1830-32*. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1979. 10-12.
- Brink, Carol Ryrie. *Caddie Woodlawn*. Illus. by Kate Sereby. Macmillan, 1935. 9-12.
- Bulla, Clyde Robert. *John Billington, Friend of Squanto*. Illus. by Peter Burchard. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1956. 7-9.
- Caudill, Rebecca. *Tree of Freedom*. Illus. by Dorothy Morse. Viking Press, 1949. 12-14.
- Collier, James Lincoln, and Christopher Collier. *My Brother Sam Is Dead*. Four Winds Press, 1974. 11-14.
- Cooper, Susan. *Dawn of Fear*. Illus. by Margery Gill. Harcourt, Brace & World, 1970. 11-14.
- Dalglish, Alice. *The Courage of Sarah Noble*. Illus. by Leonard Weisgard. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1954. 9-12.
- De Angeli, Marguerite. *The Door in the Wall: Story of Medieval London*. Illus. by author. Doubleday, 1964. 8-11.
- De Jong, Meindert. *The House of Sixty Fathers*. Illus. by Maurice Sendak. Harper & Row, 1956. 10 and up.
- Edmonds, Walter. *The Matchlock Gun*. Illus. by Paul Lantz. Dodd, Mead, 1941. 10-12.
- Fleischman, Sid. *Mr. Mysterious and Company*. Illus. by Eric von Schmidt. Atlantic Monthly Press, 1962. 10-12.
- Forbes, Esther. *Johnny Tremain*. Illus. by Lynd Ward. Houghton Mifflin, 1943. 12-14.
- Forman, James. *Ceremony of Innocence*. Hawthorn Books, 1970. 12 and up.
- Fox, Paula. *The Slave Dancer*. Illus. by Eros Keith. Bradbury Press, 1973. 11-14.

- Fritz, Jean. *The Cabin Faced West*. Illus. by Feodor Rojankovsky. Coward-McCann, 1960. 8-10.
- Gauch, Patricia Lee. *This Time, Tempe Wieck?* new ed. Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1974. 8-10.
- Greene, Bette. *The Summer of My German Soldier*. Dial Press, 1973. 10-12.
- Haugaard, Erik Christian. *A Slave's Tale*. Illus. by Leo and Diane Dillon. Houghton Mifflin, 1965. 11-14.
- Hunt, Irene. *Across Five Aprils*. Follett, 1964. 12 and up.
- Hunter, Mollie. *The Stronghold*. Harper & Row, 1974. 10-14.
- Kelly, Eric P. *The Trumpeter of Krakow*, rev. ed. Illus. by Janina Domanska. Macmillan, 1966. 12 and up.
- McSwigan, Marie. *Snow Treasure*. Illus. by Mary Reardon. E. P. Dutton, 1942. 8-11.
- O'Dell, Scott. *The King's Fifth*. Illus. by Samuel Bryant. Houghton Mifflin, 1966. 12 and up.
- O'Dell, Scott. *Sing down the Moon*. Houghton Mifflin, 1970. 11-14.
- Orgel, Doris. *The Devil in Vienna*. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1978. 11-13.
- Paterson, Katherine. *The Master Puppeteer*. Illus. by Haru Wells. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1976. 12 and up.
- Petry, Ann. *Tiuba of Salem Village*. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1964. 12 and up.
- Reiss, Johanna. *The Upstairs Room*. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1972. 9-12.
- Richter, Conrad. *The Light in the Forest*. Illus. by Warren Chappell. Alfred A. Knopf, 1966. 11-14.
- Richter, Hans Peter (translated by Edite Kroll). *Friedrich*. Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1970. 11-14.
- Rockwood, Joyce. *To Spoil the Sun*. Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1976. 11-14.
- Speare, Elizabeth George. *The Bronze Bow*. Houghton Mifflin, 1961. 12 and up.
- Speare, Elizabeth George. *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*. Houghton Mifflin, 1958. 12 and up.
- Steele, William O. *The Perilous Road*. Illus. by Paul Galdone. Harcourt, Brace & World, 1958. 11-13.
- Sutcliff, Rosemary. *Dawn Wind*. Illus. by Charles Keeping. Henry Z. Walck, 1973. 11-14.
- Taylor, Mildred. *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*. Illus. by Jerry Pinkney. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1976. 12-14.
- Taylor, Theodore. *The Cay*. Doubleday, 1969. 10-12.
- Tunis, John R. *His Enemy, His Friend*. William Morrow, 1967. 11-13.

- Uchida, Yoshiko. *Journey to Topaz*. Illus. by Donald Carrick. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1971. 10-12.
- Walsh, Jill Paton. *Fireweed*. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1970. 10-12.
- Wilder, Laura Ingalls. The *Little House* books, 9 vols., rev. eds. Illus. by Garth Williams. Harper & Row, 1953. 8-12.
- Yep, Laurence. *Dragonwings*. Harper & Row, 1975. 10-14.

# Contemporary Realistic Fiction

## Adventure Stories

Brightfield, Richard. **The Phantom Submarine**. Illus. by Ron Jones. Bantam Books, 1983. 9-13.

In this Choose Your Own Adventure story, the reader, equipped with ESP and in control of a specially built government submarine, tries to solve the mystery of the many ship disappearances all over the world.

Carrick, Carol. **Patrick's Dinosaurs**. Illus. by Donald Carrick. Clarion Books, 1983. 3-7.

A book about one of children's favorite subjects. A young boy imagines that dinosaurs are at the zoo, on the city streets, and even staring into the windows of his house. Factual information about dinosaurs is basic to the tale. The illustrations give children everyday objects by which to measure dinosaurs. (Picture book)

Cleaver, Vera, and Bill Cleaver. **The Kissimmee Kid**. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1981. 10-12.

Twelve-year-old Evelyn and her nine-year-old brother, Buell, arrive in the cattle country of central Florida's Kissimmee Prairie expecting a vacation with their ranch hand brother-in-law, Cam, and sister, Reba. Instead of peace and relaxation, they stumble upon a cattle-rustling scheme that forces a choice between family loyalty and moral values. The fast-paced adventure with well-developed main characters and a clear theme presents a good starting point for discussion.

Foley, Louise Munro. **The Lost Tribe**. Illus. by Paul Granger. Bantam Books, 1983. 9-13.

The setting is deep in the New Zealand wilderness, and the reader's goal is to find the Lost Tribe of Fiorland. In this Choose Your Own Adventure book, the unfolding of events depends upon whatever choices the reader makes.

Garden, Nancy. **Watersmeet**. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1983. 10-14.

A tale of realism with an aura of mystery and fantasy. A flood, a kidnapping trial, an escaped kidnapper, rumors of a witch living in the hills, and symbolic, traditional spring rites all combine to keep the reader captivated. Vivid descriptions of a small New England town add interest. This is not a book to be skimmed; it will be hard to put down once begun. Sequel to *Four Crossings*.

Harris, Mark Jonathan. **The Last Run**. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1981. 9-13.

Growing up sometimes means having your dreams challenged. In his experiences while stalking a mustang in the Nevada hills with his grandfather, Lyle Jeffries is forced to abandon many of his youthful notions of what it means to be a cowboy and to come to grips with the harsher realities of this occupation. The author uses this rather unique setting and event to explore some universal themes.

Houston, James. **Black Diamonds: A Search for Arctic Treasure**. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1982. 9-12.

This well-constructed adventure makes the reader not want to miss a clue but, at the same time, want to move along to the resolution. The drama of searching for gold, black gold, in the Arctic is carried out by two adolescent main characters who are supported effectively by adults. The story follows the characters from *Frozen Fire*, but it can stand alone. It reads well orally.

Houston, James. **Long Claws: An Arctic Adventure**. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1981. 8-12.

A short story describing one episode of survival in the far north. The storyteller convinces readers that the children and grandfather can overcome the impossible. There are no extra words; the visual images are strong. Children will want to believe that killing the bear would have been wrong, but they also will enjoy talking about the climactic scene. The style is sparse and direct, fitting the subject perfectly.

Lapp, Eleanor. **The Blueberry Bears**. Illus. by Margot Apple. Albert Whitman, 1983. 5-8.

Bessie Allen learns not to stockpile blueberries in a story that is good for reading aloud to young children. They will sympathize

with the bears and chuckle at the logical conclusion. The soft black pencil illustrations contain smatterings of blue for the berries.

Lasky, Kathryn. **The Night Journey.** Illus. by Trina Schart Hyman. Frederick Warne, 1981. 10-14.

This intriguing story-within-a-story begins in a modern setting as a young Jewish girl, curious about her past, defies her parents and begins to question her ailing great-grandmother about the past. The result is a dramatic story about escape from persecution in Russia, a story that alternates between Rachel's present life and the story of her great-grandmother's perilous night journey, which is revealed bit by bit and in secret. Both stories are infused with warmth and humor, but it is the older woman's heroic tale that will haunt most readers with its elements of danger and triumph. Pen-and-ink drawings provide a fine accompaniment to the text. Teachers' Choices.

Lindgren, Astrid. **The Runaway Sleigh Ride.** Illus. by Ilon Wikland. Viking Press, 1984. 4-10.

A complex story with unusual touches of realism in a book for small children. A resourceful girl who hitches a ride on a drunkard's sleigh is abandoned in a forest. Her rescue makes exciting reading. Bright paintings depict the Swedish village and forest.

McNulty, Faith. **Hurricane.** Illus. by Gail Owens. Harper & Row, 1983. 8-11.

A family's preparations and experiences during a hurricane are seen through the eyes of ten-year-old John. Factual information about hurricanes and the necessary preparations is given as John's father answers his questions. The book contains good descriptive phrases and full-page detailed charcoal drawings add to the impact of the story.

Montgomery, R. A. **Escape.** Illus. by Ralph Reese. Bantam Books, 1983. 9-13.

In this Choose Your Own Adventure story, the reader is whisked into the future. The year is 2035 and the United States has split into three antagonistic states. The reader has the role of pilot and spy. The mission? To fly enemy invasion planes to home territory.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. **Night Cry.** Atheneum, 1984. 10-14.

An unusual array of believable characters, including a retarded



boy, a man consumed by jealousy and hate, a town gossip, and an eccentric old woman, appears here. Naylor creates an action-packed, suspenseful story in which a shy girl overcomes her hysterical fear of her dead brother's horse to save a boy from kidnapers. Effective descriptions of the setting reflect the moods and conflicts within the main character.

O'Dell, Scott. *The Spanish Smile*. Houghton Mifflin, 1982. 11-14.

For those who crave melodrama, here is a well-written story of a sixteen-year-old daughter held prisoner by her wealthy, insane father on an island off the California coast. Too many bizarre elements, such as crystal coffins guarded by a poisonous snake and an experimenting doctor who was formerly a Nazi, make this tale unconvincing.

Packard, Edward. *Survival at Sea*. Illus. by Paul Granger. Bantam Books, 1982. 9-13.

It's the plot that counts in these Choose Your Own Adventure books. The reader takes the role of main character and determines the direction and eventual outcome of the story. Although this approach to storytelling might be questioned by some, the eagerness with which young readers snatch up these books certainly cannot be denied. In this story, the reader is sailing the Pacific with the crew of the *Allegro*, searching the waters for the last living dinosaur. When an underwater volcano erupts, causing a great tidal wave to crash on board and throwing the skipper on the deck, the reader must take over the helm of the ship and determine the story's outcome.

Palmer, C. Everard. *Houdini, Come Home*. Illus. by Gavin Rowe. André Deutsch, 1981. 9-12.

Survival skills, particularly those needed during a forest fire, are important to this story as Red O'Malley searches for his dog, Houdini, in a forest fire in northern Canada. This believable story with strong characterization is written in a smooth, fast-reading, first-person style. Black-and-white full-page illustrations depict key events.

Prince, Alison. *Night Landings*. Illus. by Ellen Thompson. William Morrow, 1984. 9-12.

In a fast-paced, sometimes tense story, Harrie becomes involved

in an attempt to foil the plans of some dangerous diamond smugglers. Sinister characters add to the tone of the story.

Prince, Alison. **The Sinister Airfield**. Illus. by Ellen Thompson. William Morrow, 1983. 10 and up.

This exciting adventure is set in England and involves a murder and attempted cattle theft. Those responsible for the crimes are caught by three children, thanks to luck as much as skill. The ending is a bit too smooth for belief, but it does seem to suit the general tone of the plot.

Roberts, Willo Davis. **The Pet-Sitting Peril**. Atheneum, 1983. 8-11.

Nick's experiences as a pet-sitter yield some very funny episodes, but they also lead him into danger as he tangles with arsonists.

Rodgers, Raboo. **Magnum Fault**. Houghton Mifflin, 1984. 11 and up.

A gripping adventure story involving a mysterious car crash, an emergency landing of an airplane in a wilderness area, the sudden drying up of the Patawa River, strange activities associated with Magnum Gas Company, and much suspense throughout. Two young people use their wits and great daring to survive in the wilderness and to solve the mystery.

Skurzynski, Gloria. **Caught in the Moving Mountains**. Illus. by Ellen Thompson. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1984. 8-12.

A fast-moving adventure with much action as two thirteen-year-old boys backpack in the mountains of Idaho and meet a drug smuggler. The personalities of the characters are revealed through their thoughts, actions, and reactions, thus making the events seem plausible. A few sections of dialogue might disturb some readers, but all fit with the story and characters. Some black-and-white full-page drawings.

Skurzynski, Gloria. **Lost in the Devil's Desert**. Illus. by Joseph M. Scrofani. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1982. 9-14.

Because of his father's training and talking about desert survival, eleven-year-old Kevin is able to live even though he is stranded in the desert for two days. The story is plausible because of Kevin's background. Black-and-white illustrations, a first-person style, and vivid descriptions draw the reader into the story.

Snyder, Zilpha Keatley. **Blair's Nightmare**. Atheneum, 1984. 10-14.

An intriguing story in which the Stanley children keep a dog hidden from their parents and are concerned about two escaped convicts, while they also face school problems. All work together in a fast-paced story with an acceptable conclusion.

Townsend, John Rowe. **Dan Alone**. J. B. Lippincott, 1983. 12 and up.

An unusual novel of a young boy, Dan, whose sad home life is distinguished only by negative admonitions and rejection from adults. Dan runs away from this oppressive environment and spends some time with a gang of thieves, but he eventually is drawn into the warmth of the family life for which he has longed. This well-written and exciting novel presents a somewhat harsh picture of reality, which is tempered by the fact that Dan's emotional strength remains intact and is rewarded.

Williams, Vera B. **Three Days on a River in a Red Canoe**. Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1981. 5-9.

Readers need not be canoe enthusiasts to take to this tale of a three-day canoe trip, told in the first person by a young boy. Detailed illustrations, some in crayon, others in pencil and drawn in a childlike style, enhance the text and allow for careful studying. This is more of a one-to-one book than for group reading. It will make the reader want to go on a canoe trip. (Picture book)

### Animal Stories

Baker, Jeannie. **Home in the Sky**. Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1984. 5-9.

Three-dimensional, full-page collage illustrations of sights in New York City serve as the background for this story of a homing pigeon that wanders from home one night. Illustrations deserve much study for their attention to detail and accuracy; they seem to draw the reader into the scene. The placement of text and background color enhance the visual drama of the book. (Picture book)

Calhoun, Mary. **Audubon Cat**. Illus. by Susan Bonners. William Morrow, 1981. 4-8.

In vivid, poetic language, Calhoun relates the humorous and terrifying adventures of a cat that goes bird hunting. The illustrations capture the grace and movement of the animals and are striking in their effective interplay of light and shadow. (Picture book)

Carrick, Carol. **Ben and the Porcupine**. Illus. by Donald Carrick. Clarion Books, 1981. 6-9.

Using two colors with black, the artist skillfully brings out many warm tones in his double-page spreads. Ben the dog is given importance as the main character as he is placed in the scenes of an appealing countryside. The depth in the shadows of the woods and the rolling hillsides brings the reader into the scenes. The drawing of the family pulling the porcupine quills out of Ben would be more convincing if there were a sign of struggle. (Picture book)

Doty, Jean Slaughter. **Dark Horse**. Illus. by Dorothy Haskell Chhuy. William Morrow, 1983. 9-12.

After a slow beginning, the story picks up as it moves to an unexpected but plausible conclusion. Fans of horse stories will enjoy the detailed description of working on a horse farm and competing in show jumping. The book contains good descriptive writing in a first-person style and scattered full-page black-and-white wash illustrations.

Doty, Jean Slaughter. **If Wishes Were Horses**. Macmillan, 1984. 10-14.

This will appeal to horse lovers. There's enough of a plot, with family financial problems and a stable fire, to keep a good pace.

Doty, Jean Slaughter. **The Valley of the Ponies**. Illus. by Dorothy Haskell Chhuy. Macmillan, 1982. 10-14.

It is a dream come true for Jennifer when she is given a pony to take care of for an entire summer. She learns what it means to be responsible for an animal and to appreciate her own developing skills as a rider and caretaker. But most of all, Jennifer discovers the joy in the special relationship that develops between horse and rider. The story starts slowly, but it should be appealing reading for pony fans. Children's Choices.

Dunn, Marylois (with Ardath Mayhar). **The Absolutely Perfect Horse**. Harper & Row, 1983. 10-14.

After Annie and her family move from San Francisco to Texas, she plans and dreams about buying the "absolutely perfect horse," which in the end turns out to be an old pony destined for the dog-meat factory. Annie can't explain to her astounded family and friends her reason for buying the worn-out Indian pony, but she just knows in her heart it's the right choice. And in his final act of courage and loyalty, the absolutely perfect horse turns out to be

just that. The ending is exciting, but issues and diversions throughout detract from the main story line.

Gates, Doris. **A Filly for Melinda**. Viking Press, 1984. 8-12.

Melinda and her filly, Little Missy, will appeal to horse fans. Told in the first person, the story moves smoothly. Horse lovers will enjoy descriptions of training and showing a young horse. Even nonhorse fans will appreciate Melinda's place within her family and the decision she must make. A sequel to *A Morgan for Melinda*.

Griffiths, Helen. **Dancing Horses**. Holiday House, 1981. 11-14.

Orphaned Francisco Javier's great dream is to be a *rejoneador*, a bullfighter on horseback, with the wild and magnificent chestnut colt, Gavilán. How Francisco Javier works, with intense devotion and inspired perseverance, to make an impossible dream come true makes for a captivating, and at times moving, tale.

Haas, Jessie. **Keeping Barney**. Greenwillow Books, 1982. 9-12.

Sarah wants a horse badly—so badly that she convinces her parents she is willing and able to take the responsibility for a horse's care. When her dream comes true and Sarah's family agrees to board Barney through a Vermont winter, Sarah discovers that reality involves more than she imagined.

Hall, Lynn. **Megan's Mare**. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1983. 9-12.

A pony with a psychological block against stepping on wood provides a challenge to the young daughter of a horse trainer. The story is slight, but horse lovers will enjoy it.

Jonas, Ann. **Two Bear Cubs**. Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1982. 1-5.

Children will enjoy finding the mother of the two lost bear cubs on each page while the two lost cubs engage in a humorous assortment of misadventures. Large flat areas of bold color contrast with minimal use of black outlines to create engaging illustrations. The colors seem to leap from the page. (Picture book)

Leslie, Robert Franklin. **Ringo, the Robber Raccoon: The True Story of a Northwood Rogue**. Illus. by Leigh Grant. Dodd, Mead, 1984. 10 and up.

A wilderness trek in search of Sasquatch produces no real evidence that Bigfoot exists, but the story does include interesting information about creatures in the wild.

McPhail, David. **A Wolf Story**. Illus. by author. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1981. 6-8.

A timber wolf captured for use in a movie escapes and is tracked down by officers convinced that their only recourse is to shoot the wolf. But they have not taken into account the response of school-children who intervene. Based on an actual incident, the story and illustrations focus on the plight of the wolf. (Picture book)

Parsons, Elizabeth. **The Upside-Down Cat**. Illus. by Ronald Himler. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1981. 9-12.

A story of the friendship among a boy, an old lobster fisherman, and the cat they both love but can't have. Children will be moved by the boy's dilemma and stirred by the cat's struggle to survive the harsh Maine winter. The book contains strong characterizations and evocative descriptions of Maine.

Provinsen, Alice, and Martin Provinsen. **An Owl and Three Pussycats**. Illus. by authors. Atheneum, 1981. 4-8.

You can never really own an owl or, for that matter, a cat. Maple Hill Farm is home to an orphaned owl and three kittens, each with its individuality. The fun and the responsibility of caring for animals are woven into the text while full-color art traces the animals' adventures into independence. (Picture book)

Skofield, James. **All Wet! All Wet!** Illus. by Diane Stanley. Harper & Row, 1984. 4-8.

We enter the rainy-day world of the meadow and wood through the silent journey of a little boy's walk. The lyrical narrative intertwines animals, insects, plants, and earth. The detailed natural drawings and subtle color nearly exude the moisture of the rain.

Tafari, Nancy. **Early Morning in the Barn**. Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1983. 2-5.

Young children will see the barnyard as three chicks make their early morning rounds. Older children will enjoy the cat's pursuit of the mouse and the geese, who are always honking out the window. Wordless except for animal sounds, the story is told with bright, poster-style illustrations. Children will figure out that the journey ends where it begins. (Picture book)

Taylor, Theodore. **The Trouble with Tuck**. Doubleday, 1981. 9-14.

Based on a true story, this is a first-person account of a girl who lacks self-confidence until she raises a golden retriever and manages

to train it to use a guide dog after it goes blind. Most appealing are the unusual subject and the girl's development, but the story could be more dramatically recounted.

Thomas, Jane Resh. **The Comeback Dog**. Illus. by Troy Howell. Clarion Books, 1981. 7-10.

A short, gentle story about a boy whose dog has died and his conflicts over keeping a stray dog with a very different temperament. The indecision on the part of the stray dog is equally real and reasoned. The time and setting are minor concerns, but the story takes place in the 1950s in rural Michigan.

Wheeler, Cindy. **Marmalade's Nap**. Illus. by author. Alfred A. Knopf, 1983. 3-5.

White backgrounds set off the characters in these four-color half-tone illustrations, making for a fine blend of a spare text with simple, dramatic illustrations. The story focuses on a cat's efforts to find a quiet place to sleep on a noisy farm. (Picture book)

Wheeler, Cindy. **Marmalade's Picnic**. Illus. by author. Alfred A. Knopf, 1983. 3-5.

Cat lovers especially will enjoy the humorous antics of a cat who sneaks after a little girl and steals her picnic lunch. Selective use of color makes important figures stand out against stark white backgrounds, keeping the story line clear. The text is slight. (Picture book)

Wheeler, Cindy. **Marmalade's Yellow Leaf**. Illus. by author. Alfred A. Knopf, 1982. 3-5.

Marmalade the cat and her autumn adventures with falling leaves and wooly worms come alive through comical yet realistic ink and color illustrations. The simple text outlines the plot, but the illustrations carry it, letting Marmalade's feline personality shine through the pages of this whimsical story. (Picture book)

Wildsmith, Brian. **Pelican**. Illus. by author. Pantheon Books, 1983. 5-7.

Wildsmith uses half pages throughout this appealing and color-extravagant book to change scenes. It is this visual impressiveness that overcomes some textual limitations and the thin story line about a boy and his pet pelican, who must eventually leave him for a life in the wild. (Picture book)

## Stories about Everyday Life

### Picture Books

Ahlberg, Allan. **Mrs. Wobble the Waitress.** Illus. by Janet Ahlberg. Golden Press, 1982. 5-8.

Especially well written and thoroughly enjoyable for an inexpensive book. The sewn binding should stand up through many circulations as readers watch the Wobble family set up their own café to adapt to their mother's wobbly waitress habits. (Picture book)

Ahlberg, Janet, and Allan Ahlberg. **Peek-A-Boo!** Illus. by authors. Viking Press, 1981. 1-3.

A baby's daily routine is presented as a peek-a-boo game in simple verse. The book is designed with holes for children to peek through so that they see what Baby sees as the day goes by. Illustrations done in soft colors are gently humorous and filled with details of life in England during World War II, giving adult readers something special to look for, too. (Picture book)

Alexander, Sue. **Nadia the Willful.** Illus. by Lloyd Bloom. Pantheon Books, 1983. 5-8.

Young Nadia slowly learns how to deal with the death of her favorite brother, and through her willfulness she also helps her father to overcome his grief. Penciled line drawings show emotion and bring rhythm to the shifting sands of the desert, but reproduction has made them blurry. This title can be added to the few good books about death for children. (Picture book)

Aliki **We Are Best Friends.** Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1982. 5-8.

When Robert's friend Peter moves away, both boys are unhappy. However, they find that they can make new friends and still remain best friends. This is a sympathetic but unsentimental story about a common childhood problem. The cheerful, colorful illustrations combine with the text to give a positive message. Children's Choices. (Picture book)

Aylesworth, Jim. **Siren in the Night.** Illus. by Tom Centola. Albert Whitman, 1983. 3-5.

A simple text conveys effectively the sense of excitement and fear caused by an approaching siren. When a family's quiet walk is



interrupted by a passing fire truck, the younger child and family dog are comforted by the others, who assure them that fire fighters do many good things for people. (Picture book)

Barrett, Judi. **I'm Too Small: You're Too Big.** Illus. by David Rose. Atheneum, 1981. 3-7.

Children will like the juxtaposition of big and small and the exploration of the advantages of being small. Humor is conveyed through the illustrations, especially those of the grown-up trying to do things intended for young children. The contrast of large and small type suits the text. (Picture book)

Bentley, Anne, and Roy Bentley. **The Groggs' Day Out.** Illus. by authors. André Deutsch, 1981. 4-8.

Children will enjoy the excitement of the Groggs as they build a bicycle for four with a striped canopy and peddle from their dreary Slaghton home on an outing in the country. Cheerful full-color illustrations capture the action and pleasure of this special day. (Picture book)

Bolliger, Max. **The Lonely Prince.** Illus. by Jürg Obrist. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1982. 4-7.

A lonely prince discovers what it takes to be happy. The story is didactic, but children can understand the idea without having it told to them or having the message overworked. The full-page, full-color illustrations are easily seen in group settings. (Picture book)

Boyd, Selma, and Pauline Boyd. **I Met a Polar Bear.** Illus. by Patience Brewster. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1983. 4-7.

When a little boy with a big imagination is late for school, he patiently recounts for his teacher the various adventures that have kept him from being on time. (Picture book)

Brandenberg, Franz. **Aunt Nina's Visit.** Illus. by Alikei. Greenwillow Books, 1984. 5-8.

A rainy day seems boring to Alex and Alexandria until cousins, kittens, and their favorite aunt, Nina, all show up. A puppet show is improvised now that there is a "real" audience, Aunt Nina, and the children spend their afternoon reveling in the attention of a caring adult who has time for them. A refreshing picture, in words and illustrations, of the important role a single aunt plays in the lives of her energetic nieces and nephews. (Picture book)

Caines, Jeannette. **Just Us Women**. Illus. by Pat Cummings. Harper & Row, 1982. 5-8.

A trip to North Carolina with "just us women" is a special occasion for a young girl and her favorite aunt. From planning picnic lunches to browsing through roadside rummage sales, the two relax and enjoy the specialness of their relationship. An affectionate look at the bonding between a young girl and the aunt she admires. Two-color illustrations blend beautifully with the text to create scenes that are pleasant and realistic with a touch of fantasy. (Picture book)

Carrick, Carol. **Dark and Full of Secrets**. Illus. by Donald Carrick. Clarion Books, 1984. 4-9.

Another story about Christopher and his dog, Ben, with a theme that will touch many children who share similar fears of the water. In this emotionally realistic story, Christopher's experiences in the pond lead to subtle growth. The work is stylistically sophisticated with sentences and patterns reflecting panic. The realistic watercolors in greens and blues make Christopher's world seem a familiar one to young readers, and the interesting underwater cutaway views let the reader experience with Christopher the depths of the pond. (Picture book)

Clifton, Lucille. **Everett Anderson's Goodbye**. Illus. by Ann Grifalconi. Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1983. 4-8.

A beautiful, poetic portrait of a young boy trying to deal with his father's death. The pencil drawings capture his emotions and show a mother's gentle comforting. Teachers' Choices. (Picture book)

Cohen, Miriam. **Jim Meets the Thing**. Illus. by Lillian Hoban. Greenwillow Books, 1981. 3-7.

This story of Jim and his first-grade friends will appeal to young children who can identify with Jim's fear and his reluctance to express it. The dialogue and incidents are truly childlike. The imprecise illustration of "the Thing" will provoke children to use their own imaginations. Also recommended is *So What?* (Picture book)

Cohen, Miriam. **Jim's Dog Muffins**. Illus. by Lillian Hoban. Greenwillow Books, 1984. 5-8.

When Jim's dog is killed, his first-grade classmates try to console him. The reactions and comments of the children are natural and

believable, as is Jim's response, and young readers can relate to the plausible conclusion. This is a sympathetic approach to death. The full-color illustrations are easily seen in a large group. (Picture book)

Cohen, Miriam. See **You Tomorrow, Charles**. Illus. by Lillian Hoban. Greenwillow Books, 1983. 5-7.

Charles, who is blind, is welcomed to a bustling, cheerful first-grade classroom where the children learn about what he can do. This warm, empathetic story, in which Charles emerges as an unexpected hero because of his behavior in an "emergency" situation, presents a positive image of a handicapped youngster without resorting to preachiness. The illustrations of a "real-life" classroom are delightful; unfortunately, the depiction of Charles is not as effective, as he looks physically different from the other children. (Picture book)

Cooney, Barbara. **Miss Rumphius**. Illus. by author. Viking Press, 1982. 5-9.

Miss Alice Rumphius promised her artist grandfather that she would someday do something to make the world more beautiful. She traveled to many places, but in the end she returned to a village by the sea where she planted the seeds of lupines that bloomed abundantly each spring. The illustrations, done in acrylics on coated fabric, reflect the artist's careful attention to detail and design. Children's Choices; Teachers' Choices. (Picture book)

Douglass, Barbara. **Good as New**. Illus. by Patience Brewster. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1982. 3-7.

A true-to-life story that will arouse the sympathy of all children who have tried to protect possessions from younger siblings or other culprits. The conflict is portrayed realistically, and wry humor in the full-color illustrations enhances the story. Children's Choices. (Picture book)

Dragonwagon, Crescent. **Coconut**. Illus. by Nancy Tafuri. Harper & Row, 1984. 5-8.

A young girl dreams of what she would do if she were the owner of a blue hyacinth macaw that she has admired in a pet store. While the story is a little weak, the descriptions and voice have a

kind of natural poetry about them. The illustrations, in brilliant colors and with clear, simple lines, are also magnetic. (Picture book)

Dragonwagon, Crescent. **Katie in the Morning.** Illus. by Betsy Day. Harper & Row, 1983. 5-7.

Told in the first person, this story of a young girl's enjoyment of the early morning hours sings of poetry. Katie luxuriates in the freedom and privacy offered by an early morning stroll in the country. Soft pastel drawings reflect the calm beauty of this simple, everyday experience. (Picture book)

Edelman, Elaine. **I Love My Baby Sister (Most of the Time).** Illus. by Wendy Watson. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1984. 2-6.

Big sisters everywhere know what it's like to share parents, time, and toys with new babies. With a simple text and colorful line illustrations, this book captures the frustrations and joys of becoming a big sister. Adults and children alike will empathize with the characters and enjoy the gentle humor that permeates the story. (Picture book)

Fair, Sylvia. **The Bedspread.** Illus. by author. William Morrow, 1982. 5-8.

Two elderly sisters occupy their time by embroidering their childhood home on a white bedspread, with surprising results. A finely crafted story that leaves readers with a satisfied, contented feeling. Children's Choices. (Picture book)

Gackenbach, Dick. **A Bag Full of Pups.** Illus. by author. Clarion Books, 1981. 4-6.

In this easy-to-read book, Mr. Mullin must find a home for each of the twelve puppies in his dog's litter. Each new owner is shown in an attractive, limited-color illustration, and then a full-page illustration presents a glimpse of the dog in its new setting. The illustrations are particularly good with their attention to small but revealing details. Children's Choices. (Picture book)

Gomi, Taro. **Coco Can't Wait.** Illus. by author. William Morrow, 1984. 5-8.

The efforts of young Coco to visit her grandmother are presented in strikingly unique illustrations that convey action, drama, and a

certain amount of suspense. The sparse text lends itself nicely to a creative oral interpretation of the story. (Picture book)

Gray, Catherine, and James Gray. **Tammy and the Gigantic Fish.** Illus. by William Joyce. Harper & Row, 1983. 3-6.

On a fishing trip with her father and grandfather, Tammy catches the biggest fish ever but soon realizes that she doesn't want to eat it. The repetition of word and phrase patterns lends rhythm and interest to this simple story. Black-on-white line illustrations succeed in capturing the story's gentle good humor. (Picture book)

Greenfield, Eloise. **Daydreamers.** Illus. by Tom Feelings. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1981. 5-10.

The soft texture in the drawings contrasts with the strength of the concise philosophy in the text. Children will view the book slowly, because that is the mood and pacing of the contents, and will enjoy the strong metaphors. The book is elegant without being pretentious or preachy. (Picture book)

Hamilton, Morse. **Big Sisters Are Bad Witches.** Illus. by Marilyn Hafner. Greenwillow Books, 1981. 4-8.

This story of the frustrations of the soon-to-be-middle child awaiting the arrival of the new baby is told from the child's perspective. The dialogue is convincing, and those problems that arise among siblings are well resolved. The slightly exaggerated, cartoon-styled characters will appeal to children and add a humorous touch to this family story. (Picture book)

Hazen, Barbara Shook. **Even If I Did Something Awful.** Illus. by Nancy Kincade. Atheneum, 1981. 4-7.

Afraid that breaking a favorite vase will destroy her mother's love, a little girl asks questions about imaginary misdeeds. Children will appreciate the creativity in the little girl's questions and her mother's loving responses. A realistic blend of love and consequence. Ink and wash illustrations with a touch of red. (Picture book)

Henkes, Kevin. **Margaret and Taylor.** Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1983. 6-9.

While the reader might think that Margaret is an obnoxious older sister who always tries to get the better of her younger brother, somehow everything seems to work out satisfactorily for four-year-old Taylor. The several stories revolve around Grandpa's birthday

party, and there are full-page black-and-white illustrations of the party scenes. The remainder of the text has smaller illustrations. (Picture book)

Hines, Anna Grossnickle. **Come to the Meadow.** Illus. by author. Clarion Books, 1984. 4-8.

Mattie's attempts to get her family to the meadow to enjoy the wonders of spring seem futile until Grandma suggests a picnic. Rhythmic, repetitious phrases and descriptions of spring will appeal to young listeners. The simple three-color illustrations have just enough detail to hold the attention of young readers. A great early spring book. (Picture book)

Hines, Anna Grossnickle. **Maybe a Band-Aid Will Help.** Illus. by author. E. P. Dutton, 1984. 3-7.

A realistic story involving a mother's momentary insensitivity to her young daughter's needs. The muted colors in the illustrations bring a softness and add a gentle touch to the happy ending. (Picture book)

Hoban, Russell. **The Battle of Zormla.** Illus. by Colin McNaughton. Philomel Books, 1982. 2-6.

The continuing adventures of three preschoolers and their intervening mother. Their fantasy play is imaginative, wild, and humorous. Young readers will love the illustrations of children using everyday objects to create wonderful adventures. (Picture book)

Hoban, Russell. **The Flight of Bembel Rudzuk.** Illus. by Colin McNaughton. Philomel Books, 1982. All ages.

In this appealing read-aloud story, three high-spirited and imaginative children transform the ordinary, everyday world into an exciting make-believe realm of wizards and monsters that "slop and slither . . . through desert and mountain." Delightful watercolor and pen-and-ink illustrations complement the light-hearted humor of the text. (Picture book)

Hoban, Russell. **The Great Gum Drop Robbery.** Illus. by Colin McNaughton. Philomel Books, 1982. 2-6.

An imaginative play adventure for young children. Humorous illustrations add to the movement between fantasy and reality, a movement young children will recognize. (Picture book)

Hoopes, Lyn Littlefield. **Daddy's Coming Home.** Illus. by Bruce Degan. Harper & Row, 1984. 3-7.

A simple lyrical text describes the journey of a small boy and his mother as they walk "out to the big gate over the hill" to watch for Daddy coming home. The reader moves along on this walk past familiar settings, lovingly described—apple trees, pastures, farm animals. A special book to savor and share. (Picture book)

Hughes, Shirley. **Alfie Gets in First.** Illus. by author. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1982. 5-7.

Alfie is in trouble, but in his own time and own way he finds a solution. The design of the illustrations allows the reader to see behind the locked door with Alfie. These realistic illustrations will appeal to children, as will the suspense of the story. Excellent in every respect. (Picture book)

Hughes, Shirley. **Alfie Gives a Hand.** Illus. by author. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1983. 4-7.

Young children will identify with Alfie's need to take his old scrap of blanket to his first birthday party and with his subsequent decision to put the blanket down in order to help a friend. A well-crafted book certain to entertain. The realistic illustrations are colorful and appealing. (Picture book)

Hughes, Shirley. **Alfie's Feet.** Illus. by author. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1982. 3-6.

Alfie loves his shiny new yellow boots and can't wait to try them out by splashing through puddles. He proudly puts them on by himself and sets out with Dad, but he wonders why his feet feel funny. The colorful, realistic illustrations are engaging and filled with detail. They reveal the problem to careful observers before the text does. *Children's Choices.* (Picture book)

Hutchins, Pat. **You'll Soon Grow into Them, Titch.** Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1983. 3-7.

This amusing story of a young child's problems with hand-me-down clothes has a turnabout ending. As the story progresses, it becomes more and more apparent that Titch will have a new sibling to hand down clothes to. Cartoon-styled, brightly colored illustrations enhance the text and show the passing of time. (Picture book)

Isadora, Rachel. **Opening Night.** Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1984. 5-8.

Young dancers will enjoy this colorful behind-the-scenes look at Heather's ballet debut. The simple text is extended through soft and lovely illustrations that capture the excitement of the opening night. (Picture book)

Joose, Barbara M. **Spiders in the Fruit Cellar.** Illus. by Kay Chora. Alfred A. Knopf, 1983. 4-6.

The simple task of getting a jar of fruit from the cellar seems ominous to Elizabeth, who wants to help but fears the spiders that inhabit that corner. After some brave attempts, Elizabeth is comforted by her mother, who explains how spiders help and who allows Elizabeth to help in other ways until she grows in confidence. A gentle, reassuring book for young children. The pen-and-ink sketches are sympathetic depictions of the situation, though the technique of overlaying an illustration on top of a background sketch may be sometimes confusing to young readers. (Picture book)

Kline, Suzy. **Shhhh!** Illus. by Dora Leder. Albert Whitman, 1984. 3-5.

Children will recall times when they, too, have been hushed and will enjoy the satisfying ending to this brief story. (Picture book)

Lasker, Joe. **The Do-Something Day.** Illus. by author. Viking Press, 1982. 4-7.

A true-to-life story of a young boy who wants to help and to be needed by his family. Children will enjoy reading as Bernie accumulates treasures while "running away." The illustrations of a big city neighborhood in the 1950s will be of special interest to adults and might give children a feel for their parents' neighborhoods. (Picture book)

Lindgren, Barbro. **Sam's Teddy Bear.** Illus. by Eva Eriksson. William Morrow, 1982. 2-4.

A small picture book in which a toddler named Sam needs Doggie's help to rescue his teddy bear. The very simple text relates an incident rather than a story. Eriksson's illustrations are humorous and expressive, add engaging details, and will captivate young children. Also recommended are *Sam's Ball*; *Sam's Bath*; *Sam's Car*; *Sam's Cookie*; and *Sam's Lamp*. (Picture book)

Locker, Thomas. **Where the River Begins.** Illus. by author. Dial Books, 1984. All ages.

A simple, lyrical text tells of two boys who sit and watch the river



flow gently by their house, wondering where the river begins. Their grandfather agrees to help them find the answer. While the magnificent, detailed illustrations contrast sharply with the simple narrative, their beauty cannot be denied. (Picture book)

Long, Earlene. **Gone Fishing**. Illus. by Richard Brown. Houghton Mifflin, 1984. 4-6.

With childlike simplicity, this book traces a young boy's day, from sunup to sundown, as he goes on a fishing trip with his dad. The brief text is written in short phrases that manage to capture a young child's perspective toward such a special day. Vivid watercolor illustrations also help to convey a sense of the beauty of a day alone at a lake. (Picture book)

Mangin, Marie-France (translated by Joan Chevalier). **Suzette and Nicholas and the Seasons Clock**. Illus. by Satomi Ichikawa. Philomel Books, 1982. 5-8.

Suzette makes a clock that tells the seasons of the year. As she turns the dial to illustrate each season, the children demonstrate all the activities appropriate for that time of year. The full-color illustrations are attractive, well rendered, and lively. (Picture book)

Martin, Charles E. **Island Winter**. Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1984. 5-8.

A look at the activities of the year-round residents of an island, as seen through the eyes of an eight-year-old, after the summer people have departed. Detailed, full-color cartoonlike illustrations of events and people are intermixed with more realistic island scenes. The text is descriptive; the story line is episodic and seems to jump from one event to the next. (Picture book)

Martin, Charles E. **Summer Business**. Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1984. 6-9.

Heather and her friends undertake various small businesses catering to summer visitors to their island home, persevering even when the business climate declines. Colorful watercolor illustrations add humorous details to a simply told story that will appeal to enterprising young entrepreneurs. (Picture book)

Oppenheim, Joanne. **Mrs. Peloki's Class Play**. Illus. by Joyce Audy dos Santos. Dodd, Mead, 1984. 5-8.

Any young child who has been in a program can relate to the humor in this story as a second-grade class rehearses for and presents "Cinderella" to the school. The full-color illustrations are humorous, and young children will appreciate the surprise conclusion. (Picture book)

Oxenbury, Helen. **The Car Trip.** Illus. by author. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1983. 3-7.

One in a series of books that illustrates the inherently funny things young children do; much insight into the nature of childhood is evident. The understated humor of the text is echoed in the colorful, lively illustrations. Young children will find the situations in these stories very familiar. Also recommended are *The Checkup* and *The First Day of School*. (Picture book)

Oxenbury, Helen. **Our Dog.** Illus. by author. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1984. 3-6.

A young boy and his mother attempt to give their dog a bath after she has jumped into a swamp and then rolled in mud. This familiar activity is humorously captured in colorful, expressive illustrations that go beyond the text to provide an additional punch line. Also recommended are *Grandma and Grandpa* and *The Important Visitor*. (Picture book)

Polushkin, Maria. **Mama's Secret.** Illus. by Felicia Bond. Four Winds Press, 1984. 3-8.

Vibrant, full-color illustrations are rich in detail and show a rural 1950s family enjoying an afternoon picking blueberries and baking. The illustrations work beautifully with a spare text to create a humorous story with a surprise ending. (Picture book)

Polushkin, Maria. **Morning.** Illus. by Bill Morrison. Four Winds Press, 1983. 2-5.

The rooster wakes the cows, who wake the horse, and so on, until everyone is awake, including the boy, who catches the fish for his parents' breakfast. Morrison's illustrations complement the simple text, adding details and capturing a silliness that is so appealing to preschoolers. (Picture book)

Pomerantz, Charlotte. **The Half-Birthday Party.** Illus. by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan. Clarion Books, 1984. 5-8.

When Daniel's sister stands up on her own at the age of six months, Daniel is so impressed that he decides to celebrate the event with a "half-birthday" party. As instructed, each guest brings a half-present, along with a story of explanation, but Daniel forgets to bring his own gift. His unexpected solution to the dilemma culminates a gentle story about a warm, close family and, in particular, a young boy's affection for his baby sister. (Picture book)

Ray, Deborah Kogan. **The Cloud**. Illus. by author. Harper & Row, 1984. 4-7.

Nina thumps up a dusty mountain path with her mom to explore the fresh, early-morning beauty of the world that surrounds them. She wishes for a chance to walk in a cloud. When her wish comes true, she experiences an array of sensations and feelings, some of which are unexpected. Beautiful, soft illustrations and a sensitive text provide a view of the wilderness from a young child's perspective. (Picture book)

Ray, Deborah Kogan. **Fog Drift Morning**. Illus. by author. Harper & Row, 1983. 5-8.

Poetic, descriptive phrases and black-and-white misty illustrations combine to give a young reader a sense of calmness and beauty on a foggy morning just right for blueberry picking. All the senses are brought into play as a young girl describes her walk with Mama. A book best enjoyed when read aloud. (Picture book)

Rice, Eve. **Benny Bakes a Cake**. Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1981. 2-5.

Benny's birthday cake, made with care by Benny and his mom, is devoured by Ralph, the family mutt. However, Benny's father helps save the day, and Benny's celebration begins. This well-developed plot, complete with foreshadowing and believable characterization, combines with the uncluttered, richly hued illustrations to create a reassuring and appealing story for preschoolers. (Picture book)

Rockwell, Anne. **Our Garage Sale**. Illus. by Harlow Rockwell. Greenwillow Books, 1984. 3-6.

A young boy describes his family's garage sale in a story that is simply and clearly told. Illustrations are detailed but uncluttered—a perfect complement to the text. (Picture book)

Rockwell, Anne, and Harlow Rockwell. **When I Go Visiting**. Illus. by authors. Macmillan, 1984. 3-5.

Written in a simple, straightforward manner, this child-sized book captures the special quality of a small boy's time alone with his grandparents. The watercolor-washed line drawings are attractive, featuring easily recognizable characters and objects. Also recommended is *My Back Yard*. (Picture book)

Rylant, Cynthia. *Miss Maggie*. Illus. by Thomas Di Grazia. E. P. Dutton, 1983. 5-9.

A young boy is curious about the old woman who lives at the edge of the pasture, but curious as well as afraid of the black snake that people say lives in the rafters of her old log house. His acquaintance with Miss Maggie gives them each a new friend and teaches Nat about making someone happy. The pencil drawings capture details of rural living. (Picture book)

Rylant, Cynthia. *This Year's Garden*. Illus. by Mary Szilagyi. Bradbury Press, 1984. 5-9.

Soft, luminescent illustrations and a lyrically simple text trace the life of one family's garden through the growth cycle of a year. Seasonal changes are thoughtfully sketched out, with both author and illustrator paying attention to the little details that make gardening a delight for young and old. (Picture book)

Sargent, Susan, and Donna Aaron Wirt. *My Favorite Place*. Illus. by Allan Eitzen. Abingdon Press, 1983. 5-7.

In this first-person story, a blind girl describes her sensations during a summer outing to the beach. Her vivid descriptions highlight this story, and it is not until the end of the book that the young girl's handicap is discussed. Limited color illustrations are an attractive supplement to the story. (Picture book)

Schick, Eleanor. *My Album*. Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1984. 5-9.

A young girl shares her feelings and thoughts about her family and friends in this first-person journal. The layout of the text and the soft black-and-white illustrations bordered with blue make this a visually appealing book. (Picture book)

Schwartz, Amy. *Begin at the Beginning*. Illus. by author. Harper & Row, 1983. 4-7.

Painting a perfect picture for her teacher is young Sara's dilemma, and the task looms ominously in front of her. Procrastination sets

in as Sara seeks to portray the entire universe, but some simple advice from her mother helps Sara put the task in perspective. A recognizable situation for young artists and writers. Black-and-white illustrations are full of interesting little touches of humor. (Picture book)

Schweitzer, Iris. **Hilda's Restful Chair**. Illus. by author. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1982. 4-7.

After a long, hot morning tending her garden, Hilda just wants to relax in her restful chair, but when all of her animal friends decide to join her, her relaxation is short-lived. The story is simply told; the full-color illustrations capture the essence of summertime and reveal a young child's special relationship with her pets. (Picture book)

Shyer, Marlene Fanta. **Stepdog**. Illus. by Judith Schermer. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1983. 4-7.

Hoover the dog becomes jealous when he must share his owner's attention with a stepson, but the boy and the dog work out their problems satisfactorily. The text is a bit fragmented at the start, but it reads more clearly as the story progresses. Full-page, full-color illustrations. (Picture book)

Skofield, James. **Snow Country**. Illus. by Laura Jean Allen. Harper & Row, 1983. 4-7.

A perfect story for the first snowy day. The book contains descriptive, rhythmic phrases that young children will remember and repeat. The illustrations are reminiscent of a New England farm scene, with soft gray, blue, and rose colors. (Picture book)

Smith, Peter. **Jenny's Baby Brother**. Illus. by Bob Graham. Viking Press, 1984. 5-7.

Jenny's young baby brother is just plain boring at first. When he starts to grow a bit, he becomes much more interesting to Jenny, who enjoys his humorous exploits and explorations of the world around him. The story presents an understanding portrait of a situation that many big sisters and brothers will understand. The illustrations are energetic and include humorous elements that can be enjoyed by children and adults alike. (Picture book)

Stanovich, Betty Jo. **Big Boy, Little Boy**. Illus. by Virginia Wright-Frierson. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1984. 4-7.

A gentle story about a boy playing at his grandmother's house while she works. Finally, she has time to help him to remember what it was like when he was little. Children's ideas and concerns are portrayed believably. (Picture book)

Stevenson, James. **What's under My Bed?** Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1983. 4-8.

Many chuckles are elicited from the children as they listen at bedtime to their grandpa's adventures when he was a boy. The cartoon-style illustrations with scary aspects will keep readers guessing and predicting what the object really was that was scaring Grandpa until they reach the very satisfying conclusion. Children's Choices. (Picture book)

Watanabe, Shigeo. **I'm the King of the Castle!** Illus. by Yasuo Ohtomo. Philomel Books, 1981. 2-5.

One in a series of I-can-do-it-all-by-myself books in which a young bear plays alone in the sandbox. The typically childlike thoughts and activities will appeal to young children. The soft, simple illustrations, the large type, and the effective use of white space complement the text. (Picture book)

Warren, Cathy. **Fred's First Day.** Illus. by Pat Cummings. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1984. 4-6.

A good book for other "middle children" who will understand Fred's feeling that he is too old to play with his baby brother and not old enough for his big brother. His first day at school helps him find his place. The full-color illustrations are done with watercolor, gouache, colored pencil, and airbrush. (Picture book)

Weiss, Nicki. **Chuckie.** Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1982. 3-6

Lucy has a difficult time adjusting to her new baby brother, but when Chuckie's first word is "Lucy," her attitude changes. Expressive color-washed line drawings are a humorous complement to a witty text. (Picture book)

Weiss, Nicki. **Maude and Sally.** Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1983. 4-8.

Maude and Sally learn that they can be "best" friends and still like and play with other children. The humorous cartoonlike illustrations integrate with and effectively extend the story. A good

book for sparking discussions about friendship. *Children's Choices*. (Picture book)

Weiss, Nicki. **Waiting**. Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1981. 3-6.

Mama says she will be back before long, but to Annalee the wait seems endless. The softly colored cartoonlike illustrations, together with the simple text, effectively convey Annalee's fluctuating emotions during her mother's absence. Young children will understand her feelings in this familiar situation and will find reassurance in her mother's return. (Picture book)

Weiss, Nicki. **Weekend at Muskrat Lake**. Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1984. 5-8.

A collection of four brief vignettes of pleasant weekends spent at Muskrat Lake. Pearl, her older sister Rosemary, and their mother and father share special times, which are recounted with humor and plenty of sibling rivalry. The cartoonlike ink and color illustrations are at their subtle best when used to convey emotional detail. (Picture book)

Wells, Rosemary. **Good Night, Fred**. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1981. 4-7.

A young boy is concerned when the telephone breaks because he is sure that his grandma lives in it. Later, when he cannot sleep, he imagines that she comes out and the two of them play together. Humorous twists to the story are underscored by the watercolor illustrations. (Picture book)

Williams, Vera B. **A Chair for My Mother**. Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1982. 4-8.

The illustrations are stronger than the text, though the story of a young girl saving money and buying a comfortable chair for her mother is appealing. The pages are bordered with motifs from the text and illustrations. Bright colors emphasize the primitive quality of the paintings. Caldecott Honor Book. (Picture book)

Williams, Vera B. **Music, Music for Everyone**. Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1984. 7-10.

A lovely story that brings the young and the old together. Rosa's grandma encourages her to practice her accordian. When extra money is needed to take care of Grandma. Rosa and her friends form a band. Their performance brings joy to others and produces

some money as well. Watercolor illustrations capture the solemn tone of the text. (Picture book)

Williams, Vera B. **Something Special for Me.** Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1983. 6-9.

In this sequel to *A Chair for My Mother*, Rosa can't decide what to buy for her birthday with the money in the big jar. Children will be both surprised and pleased with her final decision, made with a touch of magic. Illustrations painted in bright colors, each bordered with bold patterns, bring life to an already lively story. Children's Choices. (Picture book)

Zolotow, Charlotte. **But Not Billy.** Illus. by Kay Chora. Harper & Row, 1983. 2-5.

When Billy was a baby, his mother had many pet names for him—"Little Bee" for the buzzing noise he made and "Little Owl" for his wide-open eyes. She seldom called him Billy, until the day he spoke his first word—"Ma-Ma." The story, told with repetitious phrasing and gentle humor, should appeal to very young children. Illustrations are appropriately sweet but not cloying. (Picture book)

Zolotow, Charlotte. **I Know a Lady.** Illus. by James Stevenson. Greenwillow Books, 1984. 2-6.

With respect and dignity, Sally and her friends enjoy the lady who lives on their street. Animals are important details in the watercolor illustrations in this book that is just the right length for younger children. (Picture book)

Zolotow, Charlotte. **One Step, Two. . . .** Illus. by Cindy Wheeler. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1981. 3-7.

This reissued classic explores the small joys of a young girl's step-by-step exploration of all that she sees on a slow walk with her mother. In sparse, elegant prose, the sensory details of a spring morning are explored and celebrated through a child's eyes. The illustrations, which are new to this edition, are endearing with their warm, simple use of lines and selective use of bright colors to emphasize focal points in the pen-and-ink sketches. (Picture book)

### *Longer Stories*

Adler, C. S. **Fly Free.** Coward-McCann, 1984. 12 and up.

Thirteen-year-old Shari has resorted to isolation in order to protect herself from the pain of physical and emotional abuse from her



unstable mother and separation from her beloved father, who is often away on trucking jobs. Although a deep affection for her youngest brother affords her some security, it is Shari's friendship with an older woman that eventually allows her to gain personal freedom. The dialogue does not always flow naturally, but this is a sensitive and convincing novel nonetheless.

Adler, C. S. **Get Lost, Little Brother.** Clarion Books, 1983. 9-12

It is hard to believe that two older brothers could be quite so mean to a younger brother and avoid punishment, but the author makes it seem possible. The conclusion is satisfying as the brothers finally become friends. The author's writing style keeps the reader involved.

Adler, C. S. **Some Other Summer.** Macmillan, 1982. 10-13.

In this sequel to *The Magic of the Glits*, Lynette, now thirteen, is reunited with seventeen-year-old Jeremy. The two had formed a special friendship after Lynette's mother died, and now Jeremy comes to spend the summer working on Uncle Josh's horse ranch. Lynette learns Jeremy is not ready to love her in the way she had hoped for; instead, she discovers it is her uncle's family that is able to fulfill her desperate need to belong.

Angell, Judie. **First the Good News.** Bradbury Press, 1983. 11-14.

Annabelle Goobitz and her four best friends are determined to interview famous local TV star Hap Rhysbeck in hopes that their superior talents as investigative journalists will win a prize for their school newspaper. Hard as they try, their plans just seem to fail and their schemes fall through. In the end, however, their ingenuity and perseverance pay off in a surprising way.

Angell, Judie. **A Home Is to Share . . . and Share . . . and Share.** Bradbury Press, 1984. 9-11.

An "all's well that ends well" story about a family of plucky children who enlist friends, neighbors, and townspeople in an attempt to provide homes for abandoned animals when the town's animal shelter is to be closed. The story is told with warmth and humor.

Angell, Judie. **What's Best for You.** Bradbury Press, 1981. 11 and up.

Fifteen-year-old Lenore Curry is the main focus in this novel about the effects of divorce on a family. With a constantly shifting point

of view, however, the author lets us see the divorce from the perspective of the other family members as well. For mature readers.

Arrick, Fran. **God's Radar**. Bradbury Press, 1983. 12 and up.

Fifteen-year-old Roxie and her parents move from Syracuse to a small town in Georgia that is dominated by a fundamentalist preacher who heads up a radio ministry. The book realistically and fairly depicts some young people rebelling against their parents' values while others give enthusiastic support. Roxie's internal struggle over whether to respond to her ostracized boyfriend's plea for a sympathetic hearing will generate much thought and discussion.

Avi. **S.O.R. Losers**. Bradbury Press, 1984. 9 and up.

Each member of South Orange River Middle School's seventh-grade soccer team excels at something, but none of them excels in sports. The captain of the team tells the humorous story of his team's losing season. At times the writing lacks subtlety in getting across the point of the uniqueness of individuals, but the book is very funny and will appeal to many who can identify with this lively cast of characters.

Balis, Andrea, and Robert Reiser. **P. J.** Houghton Mifflin, 1984. 8-12.

Jessie decides that being a perfect fifth-grade student is too much to handle, but when she tries to change her image, some disastrous events happen. The incidents in the school setting are believable, plausible, and often humorous; children will easily relate to them.

Bargar, Gary W. **Life. Is. Not. Fair**. Clarion Books, 1984. 12 and up.

In Kansas City of 1959, Louis finds that befriending a black boy is unpopular. He had wanted to start junior high as one of the "cools," but his attempts to include DeWitt as he gains in popularity are met with rebuff, injustice, and near tragedy. Louis narrates the story with humor and warmth. The reader will feel the frustration as Louis's naiveté crumbles but also the hope as he discovers inner strength.

Bates, Betty. **Call Me Friday the Thirteenth**. Illus. by Linda Strauss Edwards. Holiday House, 1983. 8-12.

Gussie's troublesome antics and candid viewpoint provide blithe humor when a series of mishaps and mischievous exploits causes

more serious trouble. Mother is away, Father is preoccupied, and the house falls into disarray, only to be rescued by a bossy cousin. Gussie tests limits until she captures her father's attention and brings them into a closer relationship. Expressive drawings contribute to the story.

**Bates, Betty. *Picking Up the Pieces*.** Holiday House, 1981. 12 and up.

When Nell's romantic relationship with Dexter is nipped in the bud by beautiful Lacey and her fast crowd, Nell is hurt and bewildered. It takes an automobile accident in which Dexter is seriously injured to make Nell realize just how strong her feelings for him are. Nell is a likable, well-drawn character, but Dexter's defection to the fast crowd remains a bit of a puzzle.

**Bauer, Marion Dane. *Rain of Fire*.** Clarion Books, 1983. 12 and up.

Twelve-year-old Steve learns of the horrors of war when his brother returns from Hiroshima. At the same time, a series of confrontations with a neighborhood bully teaches him how lies and small animosities can grow out of control. The interesting parallel between warring nations and warring individuals is overdrawn at some points, but the book is worthwhile reading.

**Bawden, Nina. *Kept in the Dark*.** Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1982. 11 and up.

Intrigue dominates in a well-constructed story of a family who happen to live in England, but the story could take place anywhere. Foreshadowing is done expertly, and the characters are portrayed by showing, not telling about, their individuality. The book demonstrates a feeling of humanity beyond the immediate situation of the story—there is more here than just a story.

**Berger, Fredericka. *Nuisance*.** William Morrow, 1983. 10-14.

In this well-written book, Julie's feelings about herself, her parents' divorce, and her mother's remarriage gradually change as she meets new friends and accepts the challenges of a new school. These are believable characters placed in plausible situations. The reader can empathize with Julie and accept her feelings.

**Bond, Nancy. *A Place to Come Back To*.** Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1984. 12 and up.

In this thoughtful novel about the joys and pains of friendship, Charlotte, Oliver, Kath, and Andy of previous books return. But,

as Charlotte realizes, they are all changing as they mature. Oliver, a self-reliant son of divorced parents, has been living with his great-uncle. When the old man dies, Oliver is bitter about leaving Concord and demands more of Charlotte than she is comfortable giving. *Teachers' Choices.*

**Bottner, Barbara. *The World's Greatest Expert on Absolutely Everything . . . Is Crying.*** Harper & Row, 1984. 9-12.

Katherine Ann, the new girl in school who has been everywhere and knows everything, is an interesting character study. There are plenty of amusing episodes to keep readers involved as Jesse and her friends try to put an end to their new classmate's superior ways.

**Breitner, Sue. *The Bookseller's Advice.*** Illus. by Jane Chambless-Rigie. Viking Press, 1981. 6-10.

Because he's hard-of-hearing, the old bookseller gives some strange advice, which in the end turns out to be just right. Children will quickly catch the humor of the mistakes and enjoy guessing the outcome. Full-page brown-tone illustrations add a historical touch that will attract the reader to the book.

**Bulla, Clyde Robert. *Almost a Hero.*** Illus. by Ben Stahl. E. P. Dutton, 1981. 11 and up.

An easy-to-read book with high interest for this age level. The main character overcomes an extremely difficult school experience and grows above it. The depth of characterization and believable dialogue make this short but complex story work.

**Bulla, Clyde Robert. *The Cardboard Crown.*** Illus. by Michele Chesare. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1984. 8-11.

A simple, moving story of a boy and his sacrifice, his father, and a new girl down the road. Traits of the characters are strongly revealed, so that the reader can easily relate to them. Black-and-white wash illustrations complement the text.

**Bunting, Eve. *The Happy Funeral.*** Illus. by Vo-Dinh Mai. Harper & Row, 1982. 7-10.

A sensitive treatment of a young Chinese-American girl's sorrow over her grandfather's death. Laura's memories of nice things about her grandfather make her feel better but do not erase the feeling of sadness. A realistic presentation of death in terms a child can understand.

Byars, Betsy. **The Cybil War**. Illus. by Gail Owens. Viking Press, 1981. 8-12.

Simon, now in fifth grade, has "loved" Cybil Ackerman since second grade when she crossed her eyes and grinned at him. This is a well-crafted, poignant, and humorous story about fifth-grade love and friendship; but Byars is at her best when she reveals Simon's feelings about his absent father—her insight into children's emotions is flawless. *Children's Choices*.

Byars, Betsy. **The Glory Girl**. Viking Press, 1983. 10-14.

Anna Glory, the only Glory who can't sing, is never in the limelight when the Glory Gospel Singers perform. Her struggle to find her own identity is interrupted by the parole of unfortunate Uncle Newt. A book that contrasts appearance and reality in the life of a performing family and that emphasizes personal conflict and action.

Callen, Larry. **Dashiel and the Night**. Illus. by Leslie Morrill. Unicorn Books, 1981. 5-7.

Dashiel overcomes his fear of the dark after he ventures out into the nighttime woods to catch fireflies. He learns the night is not his enemy after all, but a friend with many special and pleasant qualities. A good book for prompting discussion of fears, particularly a fear of the dark.

Cameron, Eleanor. **Julia's Magic**. Illus. by Gail Owens. E. P. Dutton, 1984. 8-12.

This sequel to other books about spunky Julia Redfern takes place just before *That Julia Redfern*, since the series is written backwards in time. This story deals with a family crisis that shakes Julia's belief in magic. Realistic characters and situations, childhood problems with reasonable solutions, interesting dialogue, and a carefully selected vocabulary enhance an engaging story.

Cameron, Eleanor. **That Julia Redfern**. Illus. by Gail Owens. E. P. Dutton, 1982. 7-10.

Readers will enjoy meeting young and adventurous Julia, who goes on to tell more of her story in *A Room Made of Windows* and *Julia and the Hand of God*. This story moves quickly and smoothly, and examines major crises in life from a child's viewpoint. Young writers especially will enjoy reading the samples of Julia's writings.

Carrick, Carol. **What a Wimp!** Illus. by Donald Carrick. Clarion Books, 1983. 8-10.

Because of his parents' divorce, Barney moves to a new town with his mother and brother, where he must cope with a bully and a new, unsympathetic teacher. The author brings these plausible problems to a successful conclusion as Barney confronts the bully.

Chambers, Aidan. **The Present Takers.** Harper & Row, 1983. 11 and up.

Tension runs through this outstanding novel of a young adolescent girl in the unpleasant predicament of being the target for the class bully. Chambers examines a situation that will be familiar to many readers and provides a perspective that is fresh and multidimensional. The final confrontation should be satisfying to readers, as it manages to be emotionally honest while still dealing with the complex emotions and motives of the characters.

Cleary, Beverly. **Dear Mr. Henshaw.** Illus. by Paul O. Zelinsky. William Morrow, 1983. 9-12.

Leigh Botts reveals his loneliness and yearning for his father to return through his letters to Mr. Henshaw, a writer whose books he loves. Later, the letters are largely replaced by diary entries, but the continuing influence of Mr. Henshaw on Leigh's thinking and on his writing is clear. A sensitive treatment of a child's feelings when parents divorce. Newbery Medal Book.

Cleary, Beverly. **Lucky Chuck.** Illus. by J. Winslow Higginbottom. William Morrow, 1984. 4-8.

A book about a boy, his motorcycle, and the Motor Vehicle Code is sure to be one that readers will relish, especially those who like motorcycles. Humor is conveyed through the style of writing and through Chuck's predicaments. Pencil illustrations are a perfect complement to the text and are reminiscent of those by Robert McClosky. The endpapers contain labeled diagrams of both sides of a motorcycle.

Cleary, Beverly. **Ramona Forever.** Illus. by Alan Tiegreen. William Morrow, 1984. 7-11.

Readers will not be disappointed in this new book about Ramona. The Quimby family deals with a death, a wedding, a birth, and job changes. Cleary's portrayal of these situations demonstrates

her customarily honest and insightful understanding of family relationships. Her thoughts about children and their attitudes toward day-to-day events come through in Ramona's words. Readers will agree when Ramona describes herself as "wonderful, blunderful me" who is "winning at growing up."

Cleary, Beverly. **Ramona Quimby, Age 8**. Illus. by Alan Tiegreen. Yearling Books, 1982. 8-11.

With zestful detail, Cleary shows life through Ramona's eyes and in this way shows readers that they are not alone—even in having mothers who say, "Your room is a disaster area." At school Ramona experiences book reports, the joys of Sustained Silent Reading, and the humiliation of throwing up in class, all in a style that combines humor and seriousness. Children's Choices; Newbery Honor Book.

Clifton, Lucille. **Sonora Beautiful**. Illus. by Michael Garland. E. P. Dutton, 1981. 10-13.

A poetic story about a young girl who thinks she is ugly and who discovers through her family the meaning of beautiful. Delicate, realistic drawings accompany this short text, written in stream-of-consciousness style. The reader will wish it were longer.

Clymer, Eleanor. **My Mother Is the Smartest Woman in the World**. Illus. by Nancy Kincade. Atheneum, 1982. 8-12.

A painless way for young readers to learn about politics at the grass-roots level as fourteen-year-old Kathleen campaigns for her mother, who is running for mayor. The light, fast-paced style will keep the reader involved. Black-and-white ink drawings.

Corcoran, Barbara. **Child of the Morning**. Atheneum, 1982. 11 and up.

A realistic and hopeful story of a young girl who suffers from epilepsy as an aftereffect of a skull fracture received during a school volleyball game. The characters are well defined; the story builds to a climax and ends without pat solutions to Susan's problem. The book should appeal to girls, especially those interested in dancing.

Coutant, Helen. **The Gift**. Illus. by Vo-Dinh Mai. Alfred A. Knopf, 1983. 8-12.

When Nana Marie unexpectedly disappears, Anna is worried about her elderly friend. Nana Marie does return from the hospital, but

her sudden blindness devastates Anna. A careful portrayal of the treasures the elderly can bring to life and the special treasure Anna brings to Nana Marie.

Cunningham, Julia. **The Silent Voice**. Unicorn Books, 1981. 10 and up.

Astair, a Parisian street urchin, befriends Auguste, an orphaned mute. She recognizes Auguste's miming ability and maneuvers him into the household of M. Bernard, master mime and teacher. Prejudice against the handicapped Auguste is explored as part of the plot. Some readers might be deterred by initial contrivances, but the characters come alive in this exciting, touching story. Teachers' Choices.

Davies, Andrew. **Marmalade and Rufus**. Illus. by Bert Dodson. Crown, 1983. 9-11.

The episodic plot structure and broad, often slapstick humor make this story of a naughty young girl and her donkey a good read-aloud book. Some of the British English words may prove difficult for independent readers.

Davis, Edward E. **Bruno the Pretzel Man**. Illus. by Marc Simont. Harper & Row, 1984. 9-12.

A charming, storytelling style makes this book about a pretzel seller who doesn't think he is important a special story. Black-and-white illustrations highlight this humorous tale.

Davis, Gibbs. **The Other Emily**. Illus. by Linda Shute. Houghton Mifflin, 1984. 5-8.

Emily, who loves her name, looks forward to her first day of school. Her distress in realizing she's not the only Emily is soothed by supportive adults and a warm, new friendship. The illustrations complement the simplicity of the story, and the settings reflect Emily's mood.

DeClements, Barthe. **Nothing's Fair in Fifth Grade**. Viking Press, 1981. 9-11.

Many children will sympathize with Elsie's exaggerated weight problem and her attempts to overcome her hunger and her feelings of worthlessness. The fifth-grade children in this story have typical reactions to the outcast Elsie, but they learn to pull together when they realize how wretchedly unhappy she really is. An optimistic, fast-paced story that shows how well things can work out when



others care and help each other. Several characters do mature during the story, but most could have more depth.

Delton, Judy. **Back Yard Angel**. illus. by Leslie Morrill. Houghton Mifflin, 1983. 8-12.

Angel doesn't smile much, but then life's a pretty serious matter when you're responsible for someone else's life. In this case, the life happens to be that of Angel's younger brother, Rags. But during her long summer as Rags's guardian, Angel finally discovers that it is possible to hold on with one hand and to reach out with the other.

Delton, Judy. **Only Jody**. Illus. by Pat Porter. Houghton Mifflin, 1982. 7-10.

This easy-to-read story deals with the problems a fifth grader faces as the only boy in a family with three women. When his rather eccentric mother transfers him to a Catholic school, Jody becomes involved in several humorous episodes with a new friend and also discovers that he is quite content with his unique family. The characters are believable, and the episodes are entertaining though not highly developed. Black-and-white illustrations enhance the text.

de Regniers, Beatrice Schenk. **Waiting for Mama**. Illus. by Victoria de Larrea. Clarion Books, 1984. 4-6.

A sense of time passing while she waits for her mother makes Amy imagine all that could happen in her life. As the minutes grow, so do such possibilities as Amy's marriage, family, and even grandchildren before the reappearance of her mother. This familiar experience concludes on a consoling note, "I wasn't lonely."

Dixon, Jeanne. **Lady Cat Lost**. Atheneum, 1981. 10 and up.

A family on the move, hoping to live with their grandmother, find a disturbing situation at what was her farm. The subdivision of the farm by a contractor is just one of the unsettling events that follow for this family of interesting people and pets.

Donnelly, Elfie (translated by Anthea Bell). **So Long, Grandpa**. Crown, 1981. 9-12.

A story about the close relationship between a boy and his dying grandfather. The pace is rather monotonous and the sentence structure lacks variety, but characterizations are realistic and interesting in their use of detail.

Douglass, Barbara. **The Great Town and Country Bicycle Balloon Chase.** Illus. by Carol Newsom. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1984. 5-8.

Full-color, full-page illustrations will attract readers to this simple story of a grandfather and granddaughter who participate in a bicycle race to reach a hot-air balloon. The conclusion is unexpected but satisfactory. The beauty and detail of the illustrations, as well as the clarity of writing, make this an excellent book to read aloud.

Dragonwagon, Crescent. **Always, Always.** Illus. by Arieh Zeldich. Macmillan, 1984. 8-10.

This is an introspective view of an unnamed young girl's confusion about divorce, presented while she is on her way to spend the summer with her father after living in New York during the winter with her mother. The conflict is partially resolved when she realizes the common thread of her parents' love for her.

Dubelaar, Thea (translated by Anthea Bell). **Maria.** Illus. by Mance Post. William Morrow, 1982. 9-12.

The lightness and hope in the tone of this serious story set it apart from other problem books. The third-person narration allows the reader to view more than just Maria, who has gone to live with Miss Bloom because her mother is hospitalized, her retarded brother is in a group home, and her sailor father is at sea.

Edwards, Dorothy. **My Naughty Little Sister and Bad Harry's Rabbit.** Illus. by Shirley Hughes. Prentice-Hall, 1981. 5-8.

An entertaining story in which a little girl gets the credit she deserves for cleverly fitting a large toy rabbit with a pair of shiny red shoes that make him able to stand. The problem is that the rabbit isn't hers and the owner wants to take credit for the plan. Occasional British English terms create some awkwardness, but the story generally reads well aloud.

Ernst, Lisa Campbell. **Sam Johnson and the Blue Ribbon Quilt.** Illus. by author. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1983. All ages.

When Sam takes up quilting and is refused membership into the Women's Quilting Club, he rallies support from the men, who form their own quilting club. After each group experiences a calamity with its quilt entry for the county fair, the quilters pool their skills and ingenuity to produce one prize-winning quilt. The

ending seems somewhat contrived, but the pen-and-ink illustrations with pastel-colored washes and border designs of actual quilt patterns are quite nice.

Farley, Carol. **Twilight Waves**. Atheneum, 1981. 10-13.

Browning Wilds's father supposedly perished in a shipwreck before Browning was born. Determined to learn all he can about his father, Browning gets a baby-sitting job for two weeks in his father's hometown, Seagulls Point, Michigan. There he uncovers the truth about his father and is finally able to come to terms with it. The element of mystery should keep readers turning pages.

Fiedler, Jean. **The Year the World Was out of Step with Jancy Fried**. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1981. 10-14.

Twelve-year-old Jancy's year of emotional and physical changes is handled with sensitivity and believability. The author handles the behavior of the family toward Jancy's first period in a manner that would be consistent with 1936, the time when the story takes place.

Fine, Anne. **The Granny Project**. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1983. 11 and up.

A story, touched with humor and poignancy, about four children who are determined to keep their granny from being put in a rest home. Phrases in Russian and French and a generally challenging writing style make this a good book for mature readers.

Fisher, Lois I. **Rachel Vellars, How Could You?** Dodd, Mead, 1984. 9-12.

Believable characters, realistic dialogue, and plausible events enliven this story of friendships among sixth-grade girls. The theme of friendship and consideration is well developed without being didactic.

Fisher, Lois I. **Sarah Dunes, Weird Person**. Dodd, Mead, 1981. 10-14.

Hockey and adolescent emotions are the basis for this story of a thirteen-year-old trying to find herself. It is not a deep story, but the characters are plausible and likable and the conclusion is believable. The book will have definite appeal for fifth-grade and sixth-grade readers.

Fleischman, Paul. **Graven Images**. Illus. by Andrew Glass. Harper & Row, 1982. 11 and up.

Three short stories—each worth reading and rereading. A mysterious mood builds through the use of language that is clear but that transports the reader to an imaginative realm. Foreshadowing is handled expertly. Reading the book aloud will mean listeners in rapt attention, demanding the entire story before stopping; the suspense is compelling. Newbery Honor Book.

Fox, Paula. **One-Eyed Cat**. Bradbury Press, 1984. 11–13.

A haunting story of a boy, his need to shoot the rifle his uncle sent him, and the terrible secret he tries to keep after the incident. The book presents a hard look at truth, goodness, and immorality through the boy's relationships with his invalid mother and his father, a minister, and a one-eyed cat. A sense of the mysterious is woven throughout. Newbery Honor Book.

Gaeddert, LouAnn. **The Kid with the Red Suspenders**. Illus. by Mary Beth Schwark. E. P. Dutton, 1983. 8–10.

An overprotective mother and the taunts of a new classmate provide Hamilton with some painful moments at school. The book explores Hamilton's subsequent rebellion and his eventual coming to terms with his mother. Good character development at a comfortable reading level. The black-and-white illustrations are interesting and well crafted.

Gaeddert, LouAnn. **Your Former Friend, Matthew**. Illus. by Mary Beth Schwark. E. P. Dutton, 1984. 8–12.

Gail discovers that Matthew, her best friend, has developed new interests and friends, but this in turn helps her to find new friends. The reactions of characters are natural, and the conclusion is believable. Black-and-white illustrations add to the story.

Galbraith, Kathryn Osebold. **Katie Did!** Illus. by Ted Ramsey. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1982. 3–6.

Mary Rose tries to be helpful even though Mama is too busy with the new baby to realize it. This gentle story depicts the internal struggle of the new "big sister" dealing with her mother's now-divided attentions. Black-and-white illustrations effectively convey the emotions of both Mama and Mary Rose.

George, Jean Craighead. **The Talking Earth**. Harper & Row, 1983. 10–12.

Billie Wind, a Seminole in contemporary times, is a compelling character. Her vitality, curiosity, and courage will draw the reader deep into the Florida Everglades and onto the path she travels. George's reverence for the land, its wildlife, and its people, both past and present, is powerfully stated. A fine blend of storytelling and discovery of the natural world. It's regrettable that the ending is not as full and forceful as the telling itself.

Gerson, Corinne. **How I Put My Mother through College.** Atheneum, 1981. 9 and up.

Jessica is only thirteen, but because her parents are divorced and her insecure mother has gone back to college, she is in the position of running a household—giving advice and reassurance to her mother and taking care of her younger brother. The relationships between mother and boyfriends are overdrawn, and the men are caricatures, but overall the book is humorous and believable.

Gibbons, Faye. **Some Glad Morning.** William Morrow, 1982. 10–12.

When ten-year-old Maude and her mother, sister, and brother leave their alcoholic father and try to make a new home for themselves in a rundown shack in the mountains of Georgia, Maude discovers that life can be rough but that its problems are not insurmountable. During that difficult year in 1946, Maude learns something of the value of determination and self-respect, and of love and loyalty. The characters are memorable and realistically portrayed.

Giff, Patricia Reilly. **December Secrets.** Illus. by Blanche Sims. Yearling Books, 1984. 6–9.

The focus is on both Hanukkah and Christmas in this book about secret friends and giving presents. An easy-reading, gentle story.

Giff, Patricia Reilly. **Fish Face.** Illus. by Blanche Sims. Yearling Books, 1984. 6–9.

Troubles with each other and with a substitute teacher plague Ms. Roney's second-grade class, but the students persevere, even managing to create a surprise party for their teacher. Funny, believable incidents.

Gillham, Bill. **My Brother Barry.** Illus. by Laszlo Acs. André Deutsch, 1981. 7–12.

In this clearly written, sensitive story, nine-year-old James often feels responsible for his older, mentally handicapped brother. By

coping with some difficult situations, both boys manage to gain a measure of independence. Gillham's background in educational psychology is reflected in this thoughtful book.

Gilson, Jamie. **4B Goes Wild**. Illus. by Linda Strauss Edwards. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1983. 8-10.

Plenty of laughs and a little adventure keep this book moving as 4B goes to camp. Hobie Hanson's fears about camp aren't entirely unfounded, and the story unfolds with episodes familiar to any reader who has been to camp.

Graeber, Charlotte. **Mustard**. Illus. by Donna Diamond. Macmillan, 1982. 7-11.

A sensitive story of a boy who faces the death of his aging pet cat, Mustard. The book wisely avoids sentimentality. Instead, the author presents an honest, respectful story of a family experiencing grief. Realistic illustrations are warm and attractive. Teachers' Choices.

Grant, Cynthia D. **Summer Home**. Atheneum, 1981. 11-13.

Twelve-year-old Max's summer at the lake is complicated by a hostile sister, a bully next door, and a phobia of the water. Snappy dialogue and a rich cast of characters mark this revealing coming-of-age story.

Greene, Bette. **Get On out of Here, Philip Hall**. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1981. 10-14.

In this sequel to *Philip Hall Likes Me, I Reckon Maybe*, Beth Lamberg finds her self-confidence challenged and her pride destroyed. Beth's growth is painful, but she accomplishes it surrounded by a number of very human characters who love her. Individualized characters, realistic dialogue, and plenty of humor.

Greene, Constance C. **Al(exandra) the Great**. Viking Press, 1982. 10-12.

This first-person narration done by Al's friend tells of the problems of two girls in New York City. Al must face the fact that she must give up visiting her father's farm in order to care for her ill mother. This breezy, sophisticated book gives an entertaining look at one way of life; the narrator expresses it well, "we like to wallow in our emotions."

Greene, Constance C. **Ask Anybody**. Viking Press, 1983. 9-12.

A story about relationships between unlikely friends and about a divorced father and mother living in the same house in a small Maine town. At the center is Sky, who befriends Nell, the outcast new girl in town. The characters and relationships in this rural community are carefully and convincingly drawn. The ending hints at problem resolutions.

Greene, Constance C. **Double-Dare O'Toole**. Viking Press, 1981. 9-12.

Fex (Francis Xavier) O'Toole cannot take control of his life and gets into regular trouble when someone "double dares" him to do something mean, risky, or unusually stupid. Fex's struggles with his inner self culminate when he accidentally becomes a hero and finds the courage to stand up to the bullies who egg him on, including his older brother.

Greene, Constance C. **Isabelle Shows Her Stuff**. Viking Kestrel, 1984. 9-11.

The better side of Isabelle's nature comes out when she takes responsibility for helping eight-year-old Guy toughen up enough so he can fight back against those who taunt him with "Goody-goody Guy." In a rather surprising twist of the plot, Guy brings about his own change when he is beaten up while trying to rescue a stray dog from older boys. He then is rescued by the police, an incident that gives him status when it is reported in the news.

Greenwald, Sheila. **Give Us a Great Big Smile, Rosy Cole**. Yearling Books, 1981. 9-12.

Rosy takes violin lessons despite an apparent lack of talent. Her way of dealing with the situation is creative, at the very least. It is refreshing to find references to classical music in a story for this age group. Children's Choices.

Griffith, Helen V. **Foxy**. Greenwillow Books, 1984. 9-12.

Despite some minor inconsistencies in the plot, this is a well-crafted story about a boy's efforts to tame an ownerless dog, Foxy, that is terrified of everything. Jeff's companion, Amber, comes to realize that her clumsy attempts to gain Foxy's friendship are often subtly cruel and work against Jeff's gentleness and love for the dog. The character change is clear but not overemphasized.

Griffiths, Helen. **Rafa's Dog**. Holiday House, 1983. 8-12.

Rafa and his younger sister, Conchi, are sent to live with relatives in the country until their pregnant mother has her baby. Lonely

and worried about his mother's health, Rafa befriends the village stray dog and finds that he must frequently defend the dog against cruelty by the villagers. A series of events, including the death of Rafa's mother, leads to the separation and eventual reunion of the boy and his dog. The writing is excellent, and the emotions are real and believable. A sad story, thoughtfully told.

Guernsey, JoAnn Bren. **Five Summers**. Clarion Books, 1983. 12 and up.

The events of five summers in Mandy's life are detailed, including her grandmother's return to the home farm, her mother's bouts with cancer, and her first love. While not a major emphasis of the story, there is some open discussion about sex and about physical and emotional changes and feelings. The book is well written, with believable characters and plausible development of both Mandy and the events of her five summers.

Hahn, Mary Downing. **Daphne's Book**. Clarion Books, 1983. 10-14.

A story of the friendship and understanding that develop when two girls collaborate on a picture book. The plot moves, keeping the reader involved. The reactions of the characters are believable, and the conclusion is plausible and acceptable.

Hamilton, Virginia. **A Little Love**. Philomel Books, 1984. 13 and up.

A sensitively told story of a girl's search for love and for self-identity and acceptance; it will immediately involve the reader in the girl's yearning and emotional problems. Black English may prove difficult for some readers initially, but the dialogue makes the characters come alive. The language is eloquently descriptive, and there is a satisfying, realistic ending.

Hamilton, Virginia. **Sweet Whispers, Brother Rush**. Philomel Books, 1982. 12 and up.

This book will make the reader reach. Fantasy is a way to cope with reality and self for fourteen-year-old Trees. The powerful imagination of the writer will be appreciated by readers who have the capacity to imagine and to savor the flow of language to the end of the story. Newbery Honor Book; Teachers' Choices.

Haynes, Betsy. **Taffy Sinclair Strikes Again**. Bantam Skylark Books, 1984. 9-12.

In this sequel to *The I Hate Taffy Sinclair Club*, Jana Mason, now a sixth grader, is driven to the beautiful Taffy's side because of a



falling out with her four former friends. Jana uses Taffy to try to get even, and what she learns through the whole agonizing process is that if she wants friends, she first must be one.

Haywood, Carolyn. **Happy Birthday from Carolyn Haywood.** Illus. by Wendy Watson. William Morrow, 1984. 7-9.

Birthdays are the subject uniting this collection of nine short stories taken from Haywood's previously published work. Readers will recognize some stories and characters and may find something new in this book about a very important day.

Heide, Florence Parry. **Time Flies!** Illus. by Marilyn Hafner. Holiday House, 1984. 8-10.

Noah is not the least bit excited about having a new baby in the family, but after a series of humorous mixups, he finds that having a baby in the house has its advantages. The characters are well developed, and the dialogue is often witty. A warm story, certain to entertain.

Heide, Florence Parry. **Time's Up!** Illus. by Marilyn Hafner. Holiday House, 1982. 8-12.

A hilarious story with an undercurrent of real philosophy about life. Two families, next-door neighbors, provide contrasts. Noah tells the story, beginning with the burden of a father who is a time-study expert. Every word reads well aloud or silently. A real favorite; a self-starter.

Hentoff, Nat. **Does This School Have Capital Punishment?** Delacorte Press, 1981. 12 and up.

Readers who met Sam Davidson in *This School Is Driving Me Crazy* will move quickly into the next challenge. First-time readers will feel no loss of time or place because the story stands on its own. Humor and reality are portrayed in well-controlled prose.

Herman, Charlotte. **What Happened to Heather Hopkowitz?** E. P. Dutton, 1981. 9-14.

A fourteen-year-old girl discovers her need to follow Orthodox Jewish traditions against the wishes of her parents. Much of the book is devoted to explaining those traditions, including meals, eating utensils, Sabbath-day customs, and Jewish names. The story reads well without being preachy, yet it is a learning experience for many readers.

Hermes, Patricia. **Nobody's Fault?** Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1981. 10-12.

When Emily's older brother is accidentally killed, everyone, including Emily, tries to take the blame. Denying that her brother is dead, Emily refuses to acknowledge or attend the funeral. Told in the first person, the story deals with the consequences of the intense denial that Emily experiences and with her subsequent acceptance of reality.

Hest, Amy. **The Crack-of-Dawn Walkers.** Illus. by Amy Schwartz. Macmillan, 1984. 5-8.

Grandfather and Sadie share an early morning walk—a pleasurable Sunday ritual—and revel in each other's company. The text and pencil illustrations convey the warmth of their relationship and the enjoyment that is drawn from sharing simple pleasures.

Hickman, Janet. **The Thunder-Pup.** Macmillan, 1981. 8-12.

Ten-year-old Linnie just knows that her birthday surprise will be a dog. Then Darla Gayle Champion comes for a visit, perfect Darla who is perfectly awful sometimes. She ridicules Linnie's fear of thunder and picks on the stray pups Linnie and Arnold have been hiding from the dogcatcher. A tightly woven story revealing the fears of childhood and the bravery that comes from caring.

Hickman, Martha Whitmore. **When Can Daddy Come Home?** Illus. by Francis Livingston. Abingdon Press, 1983. 7-10.

The plot of this story is perhaps too obviously planned to engage readers emotionally, yet the situation of a young boy whose father is in prison is handled with sensitivity.

Hirsch, Linda. **You're Going Out There a Kid, But You're Coming Back a Star.** Illus. by John Wallner. Hastings House, 1982. 9-11.

When Margaret hits fifth grade, she decides she needs to change her image in a hurry. A lighthearted, humorous treatment of the growing-up pains of a middle-class city kid.

Holl, Kristi D. **Footprints up My Back.** Atheneum, 1984. 10-12.

Jean is definitely the younger sister, a dependable sixth grader whose life seems to consist of doing household tasks her older sister has forgotten to do—not a happy life. Her goal to earn money for a puppy leads to a series of incidents in which she comes to realize

that she must learn to stand up for her rights. Written with warmth and understanding.

Hopkins, Lee Bennett. **Mama and Her Boys.** Harper & Row, 1981. 8-12.

A boy interviews a custodian for his school newspaper; a friendship develops; and a family gains a father. The story line and situation of this book are like dozens of others, but the writing, the choice of episodes, and the tone rise above most books. The author does not resort to the sensational; he is honest and insightful, but not preachy. The book is humorous and contains little of the pathos or "sociologizing" that are often abundant in contemporary realism.

Hopper, Nancy J. **Ape Ears and Beaky.** E. P. Dutton, 1984. 9-12

Scott's tendency to get into fights at school leads him to the counselor's office and to an eventual coming to grips with himself. The treatment of his problems is generally humorous and upbeat in this positive story.

Hughes, Dean. **Honestly, Myron.** Illus. by Martha Weston. Atheneum, 1982. 9-12.

A mildly amusing story about a girl, Lustre Bright, who is a compulsive liar, and a boy, Myron, who takes it upon himself to straighten her out and most everyone else as well.

Hughes, Dean. **Millie Willenheimer and the Chestnut Corporation.** Atheneum, 1983. 9-12.

Millie's attempts to earn money involve her in some funny escapades. Her scheme to drive up the price of horse chestnuts gets her into corporate dealings.

Hughes, Dean. **Nutty for President.** Illus. by Blanche Sims. Atheneum, 1982. 9-12.

An amusing book about fifth graders plotting to make a classmate president of the Student Council. The story is marred only by some potentially outdated language.

Hurwitz, Johanna. **DeDe Takes Charge!** Illus. by Diane de Groat. Morrow Junior Books, 1984. 9-12.

In a funny yet touching string of events, DeDe watches her mother try to build an interesting life after her divorce. Seeing no success,

DeDe decides to lend a hand. The results are promising without a facile resolution.

Irwin, Hadley. **Moon and Me.** Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1982. 10-14.

A fourteen-year-old discovers what true friendship means as she spends six months on her grandparents' farm. People and their relationships carry the story; the dialogue is both humorous and introspective, and all the characters are likable. Satisfactory conclusion.

Johnson, Emily Rhoads. **Spring and the Shadow Man.** Illus. by Paul Geiger. Dodd, Mead, 1984. 9-12.

Spring's vivid imagination creates some problems for her, but through her experiences with Mr. Lincus, a rather crotchety neighbor, she learns to value her imagination. Good descriptive writing.

Johnston, Tony. **Odd Jobs and Friends.** Illus. by Tomie de Paola. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1982. 5-8.

Enterprising Odd Jobs meets three new challenges: protecting Shortie's new cast from hearts and flowers, teaching Annie to blow gum bubbles, and keeping company with the new kid in town. Pink and brown color brightens details in humorous pencil drawings. Young readers will enjoy the complications that come from helping friends.

Jones, Rebecca C. **Angie and Me.** Macmillan, 1981. 10-13.

Jenna is diagnosed as having juvenile rheumatoid arthritis and must spend most of the summer before seventh grade in a children's hospital. During her hospitalization, Jenna comes to appreciate her own uniqueness and that of the other long-term patients, especially her terminally ill roommate, Angie. A sensitive portrayal of hospital life, illness, and death.

Kerr, M. E. **Him She Loves?** Harper & Row, 1984. 12 and up.

The tragicomic story of an ill-fated romance between a boy of German ancestry and a dazzlingly beautiful Jewish girl whose comedian father hates all things German. At times the boy seems overly melodramatic, but he does mature and change. The story has a fitting, ironic ending. The descriptions of the high school life and the accurate teenage dialogue are convincing.

Kherdian, David. *Beyond Two Rivers*. Greenwillow Books, 1981. 11 and up.

In this sequel to *It Started with Old Man Bean*, Ted and Joe return to the McCable River wilderness area with the hope of finding a Japanese spy. The reader will readily identify with the characters, both in their actions and how they express themselves. The ending is unexpected and intriguing; what the boys learn about themselves is equivalent to Zen in philosophy.

Kidd, Ronald. *Dunker*. E. P. Dutton, 1982. 11 and up.

A lively, warmhearted story about Bobby Rothman, star of Dunker Donuts commercials. Striving to shake his "Hollywood freak" image, Bobby earns a spot on the basketball squad and the respect of classmates and parents. Although Bobby's basketball success seems somewhat too easily won, readers should find it fun to root for the likable, scrappy 5'4" "Dunker." Children's Choices.

Kidd, Ronald. *Who Is Felix the Great?* Lodestar Books, 1983. 12 and up.

Tim Julian becomes involved with an aging baseball veteran, an idol of Tim's dead father. They take a cross-country trip together, hoping to recapture happier days. A sensitive story of self-discovery.

Konigsburg, E. L. *Journey to an 806 Number*. Atheneum, 1982. 10-13.

Maximilian Stubb's must spend the summer with his father, a camel keeper, when he would much rather be with his newly remarried mother on her first-class honeymoon cruise. But Max's experiences during that month—what he learns about himself and others and about kindness, loyalty, and love—make a first-class tale, full of zany wit and insight. Children's Choices.

Krensky, Stephen. *The Lion Upstairs*. Illus. by Leigh Grant. Atheneum, 1983. 5-8.

Sam, wanting a little attention from his family, solves his problem by announcing the arrival of a lion he has captured on a safari. While the beast may exist only in Sam's very creative imagination, its pranks are a real-life nuisance to his family. The story is good for prompting discussion about attention-getting types of behavior.

Krensky, Stephen. *The Wilder Summer*. Atheneum, 1983. 9-12.

Charlie's first summer at camp turns out better than he could have hoped, but the problems along the way inspire sympathy as well as laughter.

Levitin, Sonia. **The Fisherman and the Bird**. Illus. by Francis Livingston. Parnassus Press, 1982. 5-9.

An almost-extinct bird builds its nest in Rico's fishing boat and, in so doing, helps Rico to overcome his loneliness and to become a part of the village. Full-page pencil and watercolor-wash illustrations add to the beauty of the story.

Levy, Elizabeth, adapter. **Mom or Pop**. Yearling Books, 1981. 9-12.

New student Flora is miserable because her parents have recently separated and she thinks she will no longer get to see her dad. When she finally runs away from home, Fat Albert and the gang find her and then help get her parents to try to work together for Flora's sake. One in a collection of six stories adapted from the Fat Albert cartoon scripts. Youngsters who are familiar with the characters in the cartoon should enjoy meeting them in print in these high interest/easy reading books. Other books in the series are *Mister Big Time*; *The Runt*; *The Shuttered Window*; *Spare the Rod*; and *Take Two, They're Small*.

Levy, Elizabeth, adapter. **The Shuttered Window**. Yearling Books, 1981. 9-12.

When Uncle Monty dies suddenly, Undine is heartbroken. She refuses to accept his death or to receive solace from anyone, including Fat Albert and the gang. In time, however, and with a little persistence on Fat Albert's part, Undine is able to come to terms with his death. Another of the stories adapted from the Fat Albert cartoon scripts.

Lindard, Joan. **Strangers in the House**. Lodestar Books, 1981. 10-14.

Focuses on the difficulties a girl and her new stepbrother and stepsister have in adjusting when their parents marry. The true-to-life characters are well balanced and effectively contrasted with one another in a contemporary Scottish setting.

Lord, Bette Bao. **In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson**. Illus. by Marc Simont. Harper & Row, 1984. 8-12.

This first-person account of a little girl's transition from Chinese

to Chinese-American following World War II gives an immediate sense of what it is like to be an immigrant. In this story combining humor with pathos, Shirley Temple Wong's new life in America is not without problems, but she overcomes them with an emperor's courage. And with the inspiration of a special baseball player.

Lorentzen, Karin (translated by Joan Tate). **Lanky Longlegs**. Illus. by Jan Ormerod. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1983. 8-12.

Nine-year-old Di Cooper is very excited because her dog is going to have puppies. But she's also worried—her little brother Mike has been sick intermittently since he was born and now seems to be getting worse. A parallel develops as the puppies are born and grow stronger and as Mike becomes increasingly ill. A well-crafted, sensitively written book, more powerful because it is never sentimental.

Love, Sandra. **Crossing Over**. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1981. 8-12.

Megan learns to accept a new life-style when she leaves her free-spirited mother to live for a year with her father, who teaches at a military academy. Good descriptive phrases and dialogue as well as believable characters.

MacLachlan, Patricia. **Cassie Binegar**. Harper & Row, 1982. 10-12.

This story of family styles and conflicts focuses on Cassie, who suffers from guilt about the way she spoke to her grandfather just before he died. The book contains vivid descriptions of emotions, much of it done through conversations.

MacLachlan, Patricia. **Unclaimed Treasures**. Harper & Row, 1984. 10-12.

What is ordinary? What is extraordinary and important? While searching for her "one true love," eleven-year-old Willa discovers the answers to questions that have so often troubled her. This finely crafted novel, featuring a delightfully eccentric cast of characters and several interwoven narratives, deftly combines humor and insight into adolescent aspirations, growth, and change.

Martin, Ann M. **Bummer Summer**. Holiday House, 1983. 9-12.

Twelve-year-old Kammy discovers that time at camp away from her family helps her adjust to a new stepmother, stepsister, and step-brother in this first-person narrative. The dialogue moves the story

quickly along. Camping experiences are believable, as is the gradual change in Kammy.

Mausser, Pat Rhoads. **A Bundle of Sticks.** Illus. by Gail Owens. Atheneum, 1983. 9-12.

Many readers will understand Ben's predicament: he never defends himself when attacked by Boyd, a school bully. Encouraged by his parents to learn *kajukenbo*, an Oriental art of self-defense, Ben not only learns the skills but becomes genuinely interested in the art.

McDonnell, Christine **Don't Be Mad, Ivy.** Illus. by Diane de Groat. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1981. 6-9.

Six short stories about Ivy. The problems covered and the children's behavior are believable and interesting. These are good stories for listening or for independent reading.

McDonnell, Christine. **Lucky Charms and Birthday Wishes.** Illus. by Diane de Groat. Viking Press, 1984. 8-10.

Emily Mott is nervous about starting the new school year, but she soon settles in, making new friends both inside and outside of school. This episodic book about the everyday events in Emily's life is sensitively written, is sprinkled with humor, and should appeal especially to readers who can identify with a more reserved protagonist.

McGraw, Eloise. **Hideaway.** Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1983. 11 and up.

A lonely twelve-year-old boy and a sixteen-year-old girl help themselves when they help each other. Character development is important to this novel; the chapters alternate between the thought and actions of the two characters. The writing style is introspective, yet the story moves well. For mature readers.

McHugh, Elisabet. **Karen and Vicki.** Greenwillow Books, 1984. 10 and up.

As part of a school project, Karen tries to organize her family into making more efficient use of time, with sometimes humorous and sometimes disastrous results. In the process, Karen discovers much about herself and her family, especially her new stepsister.

McLean, Susan. **Pennies for the Piper.** Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1981. 10-13.



This finely crafted and technically flawless story is set in Minneapolis. The focus is on ten-year-old Bick, who must handle all the arrangements alone when her mother dies. Because she spends her bus money for flowers, Bick walks to her aunt's house in Dubuque. The pathos is strong, and adults react strongly to it.

Miles, Betty. **I Would If I Could**. Alfred A. Knopf, 1982. 9–11.

A hot, dry summer in a small Ohio town during the 1930s is the setting for ten-year-old Patty's extended visit to her grandmother and aunt's home. The pace of life is slow and simple, but tension mounts as Patty becomes heartbroken and must find her own solutions to her problems.

Miles, Betty. **The Secret Life of the Underwear Champ**. Illus. by Dan Jones. Alfred A. Knopf, 1981. 9–11.

Ten-year-old Larry discovers to his dismay that the agreement he made to model sports clothes on TV is actually underwear modeling. Family and friends help him survive his classmates' teasing, but it is a fortunate home run that saves the day. Chapters are short and fast moving. Children's Choices.

Mills, Claudia. **The Secret Carousel**. Four Winds Press, 1983. 9–14.

The discovery of a long-forgotten carousel helps Lindy overcome her loneliness in a small town in Iowa after her sister moves to New York. The events are believable, and the reader will get a feeling of the closeness and warmth possible in a small town. The conclusion is satisfying and plausible.

Moore, Emily. **Just My Luck**. Unicorn Books, 1982. 10–14.

Olivia discovers that a puppy isn't as important as the friendships she has developed. A humorous first-person story with a touch of mystery, as two children search for a missing poodle.

Morgenstern, Susie Hoch. **It's Not Fair!** Illus. by Kathie Abrams. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1983. 8–11.

Stacy, a precocious ten-year-old, has a problem—money. Her entrepreneurial tendencies have led her from eating cafeteria leftovers for a nominal fee (in kindergarten) to writing personalized poems for her classmates (second grade) to performing as a street musician. Unfortunately, her money-making attempts tend to be neither profitable nor appreciated by those around her. The fun is in the

telling as Stacy describes her schemes with enthusiasm, wit, and a dash of wisdom.

Morris, Judy K. **The Crazies and Sam**. Viking Press, 1983. 10–12.

Sam is a sixth grader who feels both overprotected and neglected by his single-parent father. The contradiction reaches the crisis stage as Sam gets a case of the “crazies”—an endearing term he uses to describe the bums that inhabit his Washington, D. C., neighborhood and their bizarre behavior—and takes a ride with a seemingly harmless stranger. The story has a slow beginning but a compelling climax and a satisfying ending.

Moskin, Marietta D. **Rosie's Birthday Present**. Illus. by David S. Rose. Atheneum, 1981. 4–6.

Rosie is feeling sad because she has no birthday present for her mother. Then she spies a beautiful, shiny button lying on the sidewalk. Unfortunately, the mailman needs the button for his jacket, but he trades a pen for it. The pen is traded to a policeman, and, after several more exchanges, Rosie comes home with a lovely pin for her mother. Childlike and enjoyable reading.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. **All Because I'm Older**. Illus. by Leslie Morrill. Atheneum, 1981. 6–10.

John's younger brother, Peter, can be a real pain in the neck, always managing to get John blamed for things that are really Peter's fault. But, as John happily learns, with a bit of luck and some ingenuity on his part, he is able to take control of the situation and shape events for the good of all.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. **The Solomon System**. Atheneum, 1983. 10–14.

The Solon on boys, Ted and his older brother, Nory, have always been inseparable, but now Nory goes on dates. Furthermore, their parents are getting a divorce and are threatening that one of the boys should live with each parent. Ted wonders exactly how separate they will be if their whole world falls apart. A hopeful book in which painful rifts are eased by understanding adults.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. **A String of Chances**. Atheneum, 1983. 12 and up.

Sixteen-year-old Evie, a minister's daughter, faces birth, love, and

death as she spends the summer with her married cousin. Her faith in herself, her family, and her spiritual beliefs are tested by many events, particularly by the death of her cousin's new baby. A book populated with genuine if unusual characters, each figuring in Evie's moving story.

Newman, Nanette. **That Dog!** Illus. by Marilyn Hafner. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1983. 6-9.

Ben and his dog, Barnum, are inseparable and have many humorous adventures together until Barnum becomes ill and dies. The story deals gently with Ben's grief as his family and friends help him to accept his loss. It has a satisfactory conclusion that is both acceptable and plausible to young readers. Good for reading aloud. Pencil illustrations.

Newton, Suzanne. **An Fard to Perfect.** Viking Kestrel, 1984. 11-13.

Arden's peaceful life in her southern town—her "magic kingdom," as she calls it—changes dramatically when her brother leaves home to attend a high school in their grandparents' town and her best friend, Dorjo, has major family problems. In trying to help Dorjo, Arden learns that being a real friend sometimes means letting go.

Newton, Suzanne. **I Will Call It Georgie's Blues.** Viking Press, 1983. 12 and up.

In this highly suspenseful psychological study of the family of a repressive minister, Neal, age fifteen, finds refuge in secretly playing jazz piano, but he wonders if his sister will graduate and why his little brother is withdrawing from life. There is an element of hope in the gripping conclusion, as the mother takes steps to mend her torn family. A book that is difficult to put down, even harder to forget.

Osborn, Lois. **My Dad Is Really Something.** Illus. by Rodney Pate. Albert Whitman, 1983. 7-10.

Many children will identify with Harry's great desire to believe that his father is very special. The plot is interesting enough to keep a reader involved and has an element of surprise as well.

Osborne, Mary Pope. **Love Always, Blue.** Dial Books for Young Readers, 1984. 12 and up.

A mature, thought-provoking story of a teenage girl's acceptance of her parents' divorce and her father's emotional problems. It is

more of a story of people than of action; the events lead to character growth and acceptance, without becoming depressing. The book will keep a reader involved and wanting to know the outcome.

Park, Barbara. **Don't Make Me Smile.** Alfred A. Knopf, 1981. 9-12.

Caught in the tragedy of his parents' divorce, Charlie at first rebels as his world goes to pieces, but his sense of humor pulls him through. A view of one child's attempts to deal with distress.

Paulsen, Gary. **Tracker.** Bradbury Press, 1984. 12 and up.

Thirteen-year-old John Borne has always looked forward to hunting trips with his grandfather, but this year he prepares to hunt alone because Grandfather is dying of cancer. The hunt takes on a symbolic meaning for John, who, in his increasing exhaustion, comes to believe that if he can touch the deer without harming her, his grandfather will not die. Although John later realizes that his experience cannot change reality, he knows that it has helped him better understand both life and death. Characters are fully developed; the issue of spiritual growth is addressed with penetrating insight.

Pellowski, Anne. **Betsy's Up-and-Down Year.** illus. by Wendy Watson. Philomel Books, 1983. 8-11.

This story of family life on a Wisconsin farm is based on the author's family experiences. It seems to drag in a few spots and the family sometimes seems almost too happy and ideal, but the events are refreshing. The book is reminiscent of Betsy-Tacy stories.

Pellowski, Anne. **Willow Wind Farm: Betsy's Story.** illus. by Wendy Watson. Philomel Books, 1981. 8-12.

A series of episodes during a year in the life of seven-year-old Betsy, one of ten children in a fourth-generation midwestern farm family of Polish heritage. In the tradition of Maude Hart Lovelace and Laura Ingalls Wilder, the author captures the essence of a loving and nurturing family life with all its unique traditions and values. Other books by the author chronicling the history of the family since their early days in Wisconsin are *First Farm in the Valley: Anna's Story*; *Stairstep Farm: Anna Rose's Story*; and *Wind-ing Valley Farm. Annie's Story*.

Perl, Lila. **Annabelle Starr,** E.S.P. Clarion Books, 1983. 9-12.

Annabelle learns that jumping to conclusions can cause difficulty for others. The story is lighthearted, yet it has serious undertones. The first-person style is easy to read, and the story moves quickly.

Perl, Lila. **Tybee Trimble's Hard Times**. Clarion Books, 1984. 9-12.

A good-humored story about a family that has money troubles and that pulls together in hard times. Fourth-grader Tybee shows ingenuity as well as hard work when she tries to earn the price of a circus ticket so she can research a topic for a report.

Pfeffer, Susan Beth. **Truth or Dare**. Four Winds Press, 1984. 9-12.

When sixth-grader Cathy Wakefield makes it her goal to become best friends with the beautiful and sophisticated Jessica, she discovers some important truths about friendship the hard way. The author treats this favorite theme of friendship with humor and compassion.

Pfeffer, Susan Beth. **What Do You Do When Your Mouth Won't Open?** Illus. by Lorna Tomei. Yearling Books, 1981. 11 and up.

This book tackles a problem many readers probably share—a fear of speaking in front of a large group of people. The first-person narrative achieves a light, humorous tone in spite of the subject. For fairly mature readers. *Children's Choices*.

Phipson, Joan. **A Tide Flowing**. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1981. 11 and up.

Mark is a lonely Australian teenager, haunted by his mother's mysterious death and surprised and hurt by his father's rejection. Only after becoming friends with Connie, a quadriplegic teenager, does Mark find strength and direction for his life. Together they admire the albatross, a soaring sea bird that they occasionally see along the coast. The bird symbolizes life after death to them and therefore gives each hope, as Mark reconciles himself to the loss of his mother and as Connie faces her own impending death. The story is serious and sad, yet satisfying.

Pomerantz, Charlotte. **Buffy and Albert**. Illus. by Yossi Abolafia. Greenwillow Books, 1982. 4-8.

Grandpa and his two cats are getting old, and that means problems. But the problems have solutions, some serious, some funny. The book presents a realistic look at the concerns of aging, with a

satisfying conclusion. Sex roles are balanced in the lightly colored illustrations.

Porte, Barbara Ann. **Harry's Dog**. Illus. by Yossi Abolafia. Greenwillow Books, 1984. 6-8.

Harry has become the "owner" of a dog, but he must hide the news from his highly allergic father. The deception is soon discovered, but the problem is satisfactorily resolved with the help of sympathetic Aunt Rose. Harry narrates the story and his matter-of-fact style contrasts humorously with the elaborate explanations he gives his father as to why the dog must stay. Pen and wash drawings add to the fun of this witty but tender book.

Radley, Gail. CF in **His Corner**. Four Winds Press, 1984. 9-12.

Two brothers struggle with the realization that the younger one's illness is not asthma but cystic fibrosis. This is a realistic portrayal of a family dealing with a dilemma: is it better to lie about the disease or to tell the truth? The story depicts the strength that develops from seeming weakness.

Riskind, Mary. **Apple Is My Sign**. Houghton Mifflin, 1981. 10-14.

When Harry attends a school for the deaf and is exposed for the first time to the city and the world of the hearing, his relationships with his family and friends change dramatically. His forbidden explorations beyond the school gates, his wrangles with other boys, and his games and discoveries help to create an interesting story told in a way that conveys something of the structure and syntax of sign language.

Roberts, Willo Davis. **Eddie and the Fairy Godpuppy**. Illus. by Leslie Morrill. Atheneum, 1984. 8-12.

Eddie is convinced he is too old and too homely to be adopted, but a broken arm, a house painter, and a stray puppy help to change his mind. Eddie's escapades at the orphanage as he tries to hide the puppy add humor to the story. Likable characters, a fast-moving story, and a satisfactory conclusion.

Robinson, Barbara. **Temporary Times, Temporary Places**. Harper & Row, 1982. 10 and up.

Janet falls in love for the first time and then experiences the pain of lost love. Her story is told as a first-person narration, and in spite of the limits of this format, the writing is light, fresh, and

funny. Janet's age, fifteen, allows her to be fairly wise when observing other characters, but she is definitely not sophisticated. The humor and naturalness of the story make this enjoyable reading.

Robinson, Nancy K. **Just Plain Cat**. Four Winds Press, 1981. 7-10.

Getting a kitten helps third-grader Chris cope with problems at school, but it creates some unique problems at home. Characters are well developed and believable. Robinson writes with humor and sensitivity about difficulties that are important to children.

Robinson, Nancy K. **Veronica the Show-Off**. Four Winds Press, 1982. 9-12.

Veronica's attempts to win friends usually end in disaster. Then she meets Melody, and the two join forces to protest the closing of the local library. Veronica is a humorous character, yet the reader can be sympathetic to her problems.

Rockwell, Thomas. **Oatmeal Is Not for Mustaches**. Illus. by Eileen Christelow. Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1984. 3-6.

A fresh presentation of objects in a young child's world and what they are for—oatmeal is for making mountains, lakes, and rivers. The pencil drawings add just the right touch to make the scenes familiar to young children.

Rodowsky, Colby. **H, My Name Is Henley**. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1982. 11 and up.

A twelve-year-old with a mother whose restlessness keeps them constantly on the move comes to understand something about the problems they face. The ending is revealing and certainly not trite.

Sachs, Elizabeth-Ann. **Just Like Always**. Atheneum, 1982. 9-14.

Although scoliosis is what brings two unlikely roommates together in a hospital, the story does not concern itself so much with scoliosis as with the growing friendship of two girls who are total opposites but who share a common ailment. There is considerable humor in their hospital escapades, yet the story has a serious, caring side as well. A book that readers will remember.

Sachs, Marilyn. **Fourteen**. E. P. Dutton, 1983. 9-14.

Rebecca and Jason, two fourteen-year-olds, discover the reason for the mysterious disappearance of Jason's father while they are developing their friendship. There is good reader involvement, the book is fast reading and has a satisfactory and believable conclusion.

Saxon, Nancy. **Panky in the Saddle.** Illus. by Charles Saxon. Atheneum, 1984. 8-10.

Ten-year-old Panky wants to become a great horsewoman. As she learns to ride, she also learns some important things about herself and the other girls in her riding class. The problems dealt with in the book are real—an alcoholic mother, a mother trying to live through her daughter—though not highly developed. Still, dialogue is natural and the story will appeal especially to young horse lovers.

Schertle, Alice. **In My Treehouse.** Illus. by Meredith Dunham. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1983. 5-8.

A child's tree house is a place of his own in this book, a place to work, to read, and to dream. When he sleeps overnight in the playhouse, his cat keeps him from feeling lonely. The torn-paper collage illustrations suit the low-keyed sense of excitement in the text.

Shreve, Susan. **The Bad Dreams of a Good Girl.** Illus. by Diane de Groat. Alfred A. Knopf, 1982. 9-11.

When faced with an "I Hate Lotty Club" among friends at school and three difficult older brothers at home, good, reliable, fourth-grader Lotty finds security growing out of an irksome family responsibility. Well written in a contemporary mood, the book avoids harshness or sentimentality.

Smith, Anne Warren. **Blue Denim Blues.** Atheneum, 1983. 9-13.

Working with young children in a preschool helps fifteen-year-old Janet develop more confidence. Her character development is gradual enough to be believable. The book is fast reading, with much dialogue.

Smith, Doris Buchanan. **The First Hard Times.** Viking Press, 1983. 10-12.

Ancil's struggle to accept the fact that her father was killed in Vietnam makes it difficult for her to adjust to a new life with a stepfather. A story of loyalties in conflict and one that shows character development as Ancil comes to accept her stepfather. The story will be somewhat difficult to follow for the reader who is not familiar with the earlier companion volume, *Last Was Lloyd*.

Smith, Janice Lee. **The Kid Next Door and Other Headaches: Stories about Adam Joshua.** Illus. by Dick Gackenbach. Harper & Row, 1984. 6-9.



Adam Joshua and Nelson are an unlikely pair—Adam Joshua is a slob, Nelson is meticulous; Adam Joshua loves dogs, Nelson is allergic to them. But they are best friends, and although their friendship is frequently tested, it always survives. The humorous episodes—often hilarious, sometimes tender—are ideal for reading aloud. Readers will find the dialogue natural and the characters believable. Gackenbach's black-and-white illustrations extend the humor.

Smith, Nancy Covert. **The Falling-Apart Winter.** Walker, 1982. 10–14.

Adam learns to face the problems of moving to a new town and having his mother suffer a nervous breakdown. The story conveys information about mental health and presents a history of approaches to treating mental illness. The ending seems plausible, and Adam comes across as a believable character.

Smith, Robert Kimmel. **The War with Grandpa.** Illus. by Richard Lauter. Yearling Books, 1984. 10–14.

The idea of having Grandpa come to live with Peter's family seems great until Peter learns that Grandpa will have his room. The fight for territorial rights turns into a family problem that is finally resolved in a satisfying way.

Somner, Susan. **And I'm Stuck with Joseph.** Illus. by Ivan Moon. Herald Press, 1984. 9–12.

An adopted three-year-old, Joseph, turns out to be far less enjoyable than the baby sister Sheila had hoped for. At first she decides that God has treated her badly and ignored her pleas for a baby sister, but she comes to accept the situation. A believable story with a rural setting.

Spinelli, Jerry. **Who Put That Hair in My Toothbrush?** Little, Brown, 1984. 12 and up.

Twelve-year-old Megin (Megamouth) and her older brother Greg (El Grosso) are sibling enemies jointly narrating this truly funny book. While the theme of sibling rivalry is strong and provides much of the material for humor, both these likable narrators devote time to other concerns—Greg's pursuit of the elusive Jennifer Wade and Megin's love of sports and her special friendship with Emilie Gain, an elderly nursing home resident. Spinelli maintains a light touch through most of the book, but the story concludes on a more serious note when Emilie's death becomes the catalyst for a

brother-sister truce. Hilarity is nicely balanced with moments of quiet reflection.

Stanek, Lou Willett. **Megan's Beat**. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1983. 10-14.

Megan's dream to become popular causes her some problems and some decisions about loyalties. The characters and events are believable and plausible, and the conclusion is acceptable and appropriate. First-person, easy-reading style. Children's Choices.

Stanek, Muriel. **Don't Hurt Me, Mama**. Illus. by Helen Cogancherry. Albert Whitman, 1983. 7-10.

A little girl describes the changes, culminating in abusive behavior, that her mother undergoes when left alone and jobless. A sensitive school nurse steers the mother to the community health center, where people with problems meet and help one another. Her recovery from her emotional problems makes this an honest and hopeful story. Expressive drawings.

Sutton, Jane. **Not Even Mrs. Mazursky**. Illus. by Joan Drescher. E. P. Dutton, 1984. 8-11.

Fourth-grader Stella discovers that no one, not even her third-grade teacher, is perfect. Humor, believable characters and events, and a satisfying conclusion all work together to make this story a success. It is good for reading aloud as well as silently. Black-and-white full-page drawings.

Terris, Susan. **No Scarlet Ribbons**. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1981. 10-14.

Rachel has difficulty adjusting to her mother's remarriage and her new family. Rachel's behavior and actions seem likely, and the conclusion is believable. The text flows smoothly.

Terris, Susan. **Octopus Pie**. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1983. 10-13.

Kristen and Marianne Hart's father brings home an octopus as his inspiration for writing a children's story. When the so-called "octo-pet" mysteriously disappears, the two sisters try to find out who the "octonapper" is. The story is written in the first person by imaginative Kristen, who turns out to be not only a good sleuth but the storyteller in the family as well. Excellent characterization and finely developed plot.

Thomas, Jane Resh. **Courage at Indian Deep**. Clarion Books, 1984. 9-12.

As the summer turns to autumn, Cass Kennedy struggles to find his place in the life and woods of the North Shore of Lake Superior. A November blizzard and a dramatic rescue attempt test him physically and emotionally. The book is rich in detail and descriptive language, with such images as the oak leaves that "glowed red as poured wine."

Tolan, Stephanie S. **A Time to Fly Free**. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1983. 10 and up.

Frustrated by the confinement of the classroom and by being taught what he already knows, ten-year-old Josh walks out of school, determined never to return. In the end, Josh learns about his own humanity, about being free and being part of the living universe. The writing is tightly knit, descriptive, and strong in characterization. Tolan's appreciation of and concern for creatures of the wild are emphatic.

Ure, Jean. **Supermouse**. Illus. by Ellen Eagle. William Morrow, 1984. 9-12.

A young girl and her family discover that she has talents to offer even though everyone previously gave all the attention to her younger sister. The stage-door mother and spoiled younger sister occasionally seem overdone, almost stereotyped, but the remaining characters are believable. The theme is obvious, but the book is not preachy.

Van Leeuwen, Jean. **Benjy in Business**. Illus. by Margot Apple. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1983. 7-11.

This story of a young boy trying to earn money to buy a baseball glove has all the ingredients to appeal to younger readers: believable and likable characters, humorous situations, and a most acceptable conclusion. Black-and-white illustrations add to the story. A sequel to *Benjy and the Power of Zingies*.

Voigt, Cynthia. **Building Blocks**. Atheneum, 1984. 10-12.

Until the day his fortress of blocks transports him back in time to his father's childhood during the late 1930s, Brann Connell believes his father is a loser, a man defeated by fate. The interplay between the two boys is realistically depicted, childlike in perspective. What

Brann learns about his father from this experience and, more particularly, how his relationship with his parents changes are too sophisticated and uncharacteristic for a twelve-year-old child.

Voigt, Cynthia. **Dacey's Song**. Atheneum, 1982. 10 and up.

A sequel to *Homecoming*, this book focuses on Dacey's difficulty in accepting a new life living with Gram. The Tillermans are all haunted by the knowledge that their mother is in an asylum and is not lucid. Changes in Dacey are well developed, as is her changing relationship with Gram. Newbery Medal Book; Teachers' Choices.

Voigt, Cynthia. **Homecoming**. Atheneum, 1983. 11 and up.

A moving story of four children's harrowing journey in search of a home after they are abandoned by their mother. Dacey is a remarkably complex character whose drive and determination far exceed that of other thirteen-year-old girls.

Voigt, Cynthia. **A Solitary Blue**. Atheneum, 1983. 11 and up.

This companion volume to *Dacey's Song* tells about Jeff's life with his father, the professor who seems to have little understanding of Jeff's needs, after Jeff's mother leaves home to help solve the worldwide problems of starving children and an endangered ecology. Father and son grow closer together in this story that reveals what is solid in human relationships as well as what is fleeting and undeserving of trust. Newbery Honor Book; Teachers' Choices.

Walter, Mildred Pitts. **My Mama Needs Me**. Illus. by Pat Cummings. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1983. 4-7.

Jason is excited but a bit uncertain of his new place in the family when his baby sister arrives home from the hospital. Large, decorative pastel illustrations portray a loving family situation. A perfect book for children who may be apprehensive about a new sibling.

Weiman, Eiveen. **It Takes Brains**. Atheneum, 1982. 10-14.

Barbara, nicknamed "Brains," finds adjusting to school and making friends much easier when she is placed in a class for gifted students. The text reads easily; the plot is not intense, but the reader will be interested in following the mishaps and successes of Barbara in and out of school. The conclusion is somewhat melodramatic and predictable, but it will be satisfactory to most readers.

Weiman, Eiveen. **Which Way Courage**. Atheneum, 1981. 10-14.

The Amish life is all Courage has known, but when she finishes eighth grade she wants more education, not the marriage her friends are anticipating. Because she takes care of her handicapped brother, Jason, she is allowed to study one more year, but then she is to stop her schooling. Her awakening questions about her brother's condition force her into decisions that change her life forever. A thoughtful look at courageous acts and their unpredictable effects.

Williams, Barbara. **Mitzi and Frederick the Great**. Illus. by Emily Arnold McCully. E. P. Dutton, 1984. 9-12.

Readers will pick up some information about archeology from this story of Mitzi's experiences on a dig with her mother and step-brother. Amusing situations and a plot that moves right along.

Williams, Barbara. **Mitzi and the Terrible Tyrannosaurus**. Illus. by Emily Arnold McCully. E. P. Dutton, 1982. 7-9.

Two merging families present problems for eight-year-old Mitzi when she discovers that her mother's new husband-to-be has two sons plus a live-in mother. But it is the problem of precocious three-year-old Rex that finally solidifies amusing alliances and leads to convincing solutions.

Williams, Barbara. **Mitzi's Honeymoon with Nana Potts**. Illus. by Emily Arnold McCully. E. P. Dutton, 1983. 7-9.

Mitzi gets to know her new family well when her mother goes off on her honeymoon with Mr. Potts and leaves Mitzi with his mother and sons. The result is a series of very funny encounters.

Wright, Betty Ren. **Getting Rid of Marjorie**. Holiday House, 1981. 10-13.

Eleven-year-old Emily, fearing that the special relationship she has with her grandfather is threatened by his new wife, plots to get rid of the would-be intruder. When her schemes fail, Emily painfully admits her unhappiness was due to jealousy and misunderstanding and tries to make amends.

### **Humorous Stories**

Baker, Betty. **Worthington Botts and the Steam Machine**. Illus. by Sal Murdocca. Macmillan, 1981. 4-8.

The humor and irony of the steam-powered robot that does not give its owner more time to read will be readily understood by young readers. This Ready-to-Read book also works when read aloud. Machine-sound words add to the text and encourage children to read along. Full-page, full-color illustrations.

Blume, Judy. **The Pain and the Great One.** Illus. by Irene Trivas. Bradbury Press, 1984. 7-10.

Big sister (The Great One) tells why her younger brother (The Pain) is such a pain. Then The Pain gets his chance to let the reader see why The Great One isn't really all that great. The book humorously captures sibling rivalry, using the point of view of each of the warring parties.

Bodecker, N. M. **The Lost String Quartet.** Illus. by author. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1981. 6 and up.

A matter-of-fact recounting of the mysterious disappearance of the Daffodil String Quartet. Bodecker's droll humor is reflected in a witty text and agile pen-and-ink drawings that capture the endearing befuddlement of the lost quartet. (Picture book)

Brandenberg, Franz. **Leo and Emily and the Dragon.** Illus. by Alik. Greenwillow Books, 1984. 5-7.

"Let's go catch a dragon," urges Emily to her special friend, Leo. With that solemn statement, they begin an adventuresome day in pursuit of imaginary fun. This two-chapter, easy-to-read book traces a day enlivened with the joy of make-believe play. Alik's illustrations are delightful, with intriguing touches of humor.

Cameron, Ann. **The Stories Julian Tells.** Illus. by Ann Strugnell. Fantheton Books, 1981. 5-9.

These six stories, written in a spare style and narrated by the older of two brothers, are packed with humor and imaginative detail. Affectionate teasing and play characterize Julian's relationships with others. Pencil illustrations beautifully reflect the blend of realism and the fanciful quality of the stories.

Chapman, Carol. **Herbie's Troubles.** Illus. by Kelly Oechsli. E. P. Dutton, 1981. 5-8.

Herbie's troubles begin when Jimmy John starts bullying him at school. Herbie tries following the advice of his friends but discovers his own way to solve the problem. The ending might strike some

children as unrealistic, but it could happen. The slapstick humor in smashed granola bars and splattered paint is stronger than the humor in the message of the story, but the dialogue between Herbie and Jimmy John is realistic

Clifford, Eth. **Harvey's Horrible Snake Disaster.** Houghton Mifflin, 1984. 8-11.

Noia and Harvey discover that when a snake is involved, it's not so hard to be cousins and to get along. The story borders on slapstick, but its humorous situations should appeal to intermediate-age readers. The ending is a bit contrived, but readers will accept it. Fast-paced, quick reading.

Cone, Molly. **Mishmash and the Big Fat Problem.** Illus. by Leonard Shortall. Houghton Mifflin, 1982. 7-9.

This Mishmash story finds Pete involved in a serious competition with Wanda in running a marathon. Determined to show Wanda who is first and best, Mishmash, now fat, puts things into proper perspective in spite of hypnotism and exercise plans.

Conford, Ellen. **If This Is Love, I'll Take Spaghetti.** Four Winds Press, 1983. 12 and up.

Most girls will be able to empathize with the heroines in this collection of short stories dealing with the various problems of teenage life. Humorous, and often zany, true-to-life situations: adept dialogue. Children's Choices.

Corbett, Scott. **Down with Wimps!** Illus. by Larry Ross. E. P. Dutton, 1984. 9-11.

A visiting author, peer rivalry, and trouble in the school cafeteria combine in a wacky way to create a fast-paced and funny story. The writing style is not great, but the dialogue is good enough to carry the plot along.

Creswell, Helen. **Bagthorpes Abroad: Being the Fifth Part of the Bagthorpe Saga.** Macmillan, 1984. 10 and up.

Book five chronicles further adventures of the Bagthorpe family, this time in a haunted house in Wales. There are numerous funny episodes to keep a reader's interest. Good for mature readers.

de Paola, Tomie. **Marianna May and Nursey.** Illus. by author. Holiday House, 1983. 5-7.

Marianna, who always wears white, doesn't have fun during the summer until all the adults figure out how she can safely eat orange ice and strawberry ice cream, roll in the grass, make mud pies, and paint. A de Paola book of illustrations and text that is filled with fun, humor, and cleverness. *Children's Choices*. (Picture book)

Giff, Patricia Reilly. **The Winter Worm Business**. Illus. by Leslie Morrill. Yearling Books, 1983. 8-11.

A humorous book that middle-grade children will enjoy heartily, especially the classical piano recital sequence and an ice fishing adventure. The characters are lively with multidimensional personalities. The language is witty and accented with the cadence of children's dialogue.

Gilson, Jamie. **Thirteen Ways to Sink a Sub**. Illus. by Linda Strauss Edwards. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1982. 8-10.

A fourth-grade class devises a contest of girls versus boys to see who can "sink" their substitute teacher. But this is no ordinary "sub," so their plots and subterfuges, familiar to all elementary students, don't work as planned. The conclusion has a twist that is funny and satisfying.

Heide, Florence Parry. **Banana Blitz**. Holiday House, 1983. 8-10.

This humorous, clever sequel to *Banana Twist* finds Jonah faced with two problems as he arrives at Fairlee School. Goober is his roommate, and Jonah is without funds for candy bars. To win the prize offered by the American Banana Institute by watching TV commercials seems an easy answer, but when Jonah wins the prize, it's not a solution. *Children's Choices*.

Hoban, Russell. **They Came from Aargh!** Illus. by Colin McNaughton. Philomel Books, 1981. 2-6.

Humorous realistic illustrations contrast and balance the fast-moving, space-age fantasy about the play adventures of three pre-schoolers. Young children will enjoy the story. (Picture book)

Hurwitz, Johanna. **The Hot and Cold Summer**. Illus. by Gail Owens. William Morrow, 1984. 8-11.

Two ten-year-old boys who are best friends find out through a series of adventures and misadventures that it is possible to be friends with girls. A humorous story with likable and believable



characters. Full-page pencil drawings spread throughout the book realistically portray the characters and events.

Hurwitz, Johanna. **Rip-Roaring Russell**. Illus. by Lillian Hoban. William Morrow, 1983. 4-9.

The life and hard times of a preschooler named Russell are told in six funny stories. His antics involve his nursery school, his baby sister, and his friends in the apartment building and earn him the nickname Rip-Roaring. Good for reading aloud to children in Russell's age group. The emotional tone and humor are both enhanced by black-and-white illustrations.

Hurwitz, Johanna. **Tough-Luck Karen**. Illus. by Diane de Groat. William Morrow, 1982. 8-12.

Karen does not like homework, but she does like cooking and writing to pen pals; it is these two pastimes that help her to begin to achieve success in school. The book contains humor, believable characters, plausible situations, and a flowing text. Soft pencil illustrations throughout the book add visual appeal.

Lowry, Lois. **Anastasia, Ask Your Analyst**. Houghton Mifflin, 1984. 9-13.

Fans of *Anastasia* will want to know about this new title in which Anastasia tackles a science project. The story is lots of fun, though not quite as satisfying as some of the other books in the series.

Lowry, Lois. **Anastasia Again!** Illus. by Diane de Groat. Houghton Mifflin, 1981. 9-13.

Precocious, spirited Anastasia, the star of *Anastasia Krupnik*, is back, and young readers will applaud her reappearance. This time, Anastasia woefully faces a move to "middle-class suburbia," a fate she is sure will yield only boredom and loneliness for her intellectual family. Despite her misgivings, the family does move, and Anastasia slowly comes to grips with her prejudices as new friendships develop in surprising ways. Characters are refreshingly unique in this novel, and the humorous situations are always grounded with an emotional truth that is universal.

Lowry, Lois. **Anastasia at Your Service**. Illus. by Diane de Groat. Houghton Mifflin, 1982. 8-12.

A very funny story as twelve-year-old Anastasia advertises as a Lady's Companion and ends up being a maid. There is humor in

the events as well as in the dialogue. The only disturbing part of the story comes from the mature vocabulary and ideas of Anastasia's brother, who is only two and a half years old. Even though he is portrayed as intelligent and precocious, some of his comments are hard to believe.

Lowry, Lois. **The One Hundredth Thing about Caroline.** Houghton Mifflin, 1983. 9-12.

Caroline is certain that a man who lives on the fifth floor in her building is planning to murder her and her brother and then to marry her mother. Her sleuthing produces numerous funny episodes and a good bit of evidence stashed, oddly enough, in a pair of galoshes. Fast paced and enjoyable

Lowry, Lois. **Taking Care of Terrific.** Houghton Mifflin, 1983. 10-12.

Enid's job as a baby-sitter for Joshua leads her to a friendship with Seth, a classmate she had previously disliked, and to a sympathy for the bag ladies of Boston's Public Park. Though marked by clichés and social concerns that will date it, the story is amusing and sometimes touching.

Marshall, James. **The Cut-Ups.** Illus. by James Marshall. Viking Kestrel, 1984. 3-8.

Unbridled silliness in both the story and illustrations will have children laughing out loud and wondering what the crazy characters will think up next. Lamar J. Spurgle and Mary Frances Hooley are memorable characters. The ending has a perfect twist that seals the fate of Spud and Joe. (Picture book)

Nelson, Brenda. **Mud Fore Sale.** Illus. by Richard Brown. Houghton Mifflin, 1984. 4-7.

It's summertime and all of Max's friends are enjoying the seasonal pastime of selling something at a stand. Max whimsically decides that he will sell mud, an item that turns out to be unexpectedly popular. Animated illustrations and an easy-to-read text explore the fun involved in being messy. (Picture book)

Noble, Trinkia Hakes. **Jimmy's Boa Bounces Back.** Illus. by Steven Kellogg. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1984. 5-8.

Jimmy's boa constrictor creates some difficulties at a garden club meeting. The hilarious, madcap adventures will appeal to young readers. Detailed full-color illustrations depicting antics and adven-

tures fill the pages with movement and add activity. A sequel to *The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash*. (Picture book)

Okimoto, Jean Davies. **Norman Schnurman, Average Person**. Yearling Books, 1984. 10-12.

A very funny yet astute view of life in the sixth grade. The author obviously understands boys and interprets their thoughts and actions well. There are nice touches of local color, too, in the Seattle setting.

Parish, Peggy. **Amelia Bedelia and the Baby**. Illus. by Lynn Sweat. Greenwillow Books, 1981. 7-10.

Amelia Bedelia takes on a new challenge as she tries to follow directions in caring for a little baby. Young readers will enjoy Amelia's humorous misinterpretations of written directions.

Park, Barbara. **Skinnybones**. Alfred A. Knopf, 1982. 10-14.

Humor abounds as Alex tries to compensate for his short size and lack of athletic ability. His active mouth lands him in many predicaments, both in school and at home, but his parents handle him in a believable manner. The ending seems a bit farfetched but appropriate.

Peck, Robert Newton. **Soup in the Saddle**. Illus. by Charles Robinson. Alfred A. Knopf, 1983. 9-14.

The humorous escapades of Soup and Rob as they try to be cowboys on a very high-spirited horse and also help the town to honor their teacher, Miss Kelly. Illustrated with soft pencil drawings.

Peck, Robert Newton. **Soup on Wheels**. Illus. by Charles Robinson. Alfred A. Knopf, 1981. 9-14.

Soup and Rob try for the best costume in their town's "Mardy Grah." A humorous, fast-paced story, good for reading aloud.

Peck, Robert Newton. **Soup's Goat**. Illus. by Charles Robinson. Alfred A. Knopf, 1984. 9-11.

The story has the usual complement of scatological references found in most of Peck's books. However, the pace, the humor, and the characters will draw the reader into Soup's clever plan to win a goat race. The conclusion is truly smashing. The black-and-white illustrations underline the sometimes wry, often slapstick, humor.

Rosen, Winifred. **Henrietta and the Gong from Hong Kong**. Illus. by Kay Chora. Four Winds Press, 1981. 5-10.

While visiting her grandparents one afternoon, the ever-invincible Henrietta learns she's not the only one to have problems with behaving. Her grandmother lets her in on a secret about her own mother's problems and pains of growing up. With humor and heart, the author gives the young reader a heroine to cheer for.

Sadler, Marilyn. **Alistair's Elephant**. Illus. by Roger Bollen. Prentice-Hall, 1983. 3-7.

A spare, witty text tells how Alistair's life changes after an elephant follows him home from the zoo. Large, brightly lit, cartoonlike illustrations enhance the text, adding a humorous punch line to the story. (Picture book)

Salassi, Otto R. **On the Ropes**. Greenwillow Books, 1981. 11 and up.

A crazy series of events change a farm into a wrestling college when Squint and Julie's mother dies and their itinerant father returns home. There are plenty of laughs but some touching scenes, too.

Schwartz, Amy. **Her Majesty, Aunt Essie**. Illus. by author. Bradbury Press, 1984. 5-8.

The full-color illustrations are exaggerated suitably to underline the comic effects of a niece's belief that her aunt is royalty. The ending justifies her conjectures, at least in her mind. (Picture book)

Shannon, George. **The Gang and Mrs. Higgins**. Illus. by Andrew Vines. Greenwillow Books, 1981. 6-9.

An easy-to-read story about how Mrs. Higgins outwits the mean, unwashed Anderson brothers when they try to rob her trading post. Simple vocabulary, a brief text, and a funny story and pictures to make a reader giggle.

Sharmat, Marjorie Weinman. **Mysteriously Yours, Maggie Marmelstein**. Illus. by Ben Schecter. Harper & Row, 1982. 9-11.

More funny than mysterious, the plot does have enough twists to keep readers involved as Maggie writes the mystery column for her school newspaper. Children already acquainted with Maggie will very likely enjoy this story but may find it less amusing than earlier books about this character.

Sharmat, Marjorie Weinman. **Rich Mitch**. Illus. by Loretta Lustig. William Morrow, 1983. 8-11.

Eleven-year-old Mitch finds out what it's like to win \$250,000 in a sweepstakes. The plot line, while superficial, is humorous and will keep readers laughing and involved in Mitch's problems. The conclusion has a humorous twist but seems somewhat abrupt, as though the author didn't quite know where to go with the story.

Shura, Mary Francis. **Eleanor**. Illus. by Susan Swan. Dodd, Mead, 1983. 9-12.

Rivalry between schools takes on a creative bent in this zany story. There are enough genuinely funny episodes here to overcome a somewhat weak plot line.

Shura, Mary Francis. **Jefferson**. Illus. by Susan Swan. Dodd, Mead, 1984. 9-12.

Chaos reigns in this story involving plans for a surprise birthday party. A funny story with likable characters.

Sutton, Jane. **Me and the Weirdos**. Illus. by Sandy Kossin. Houghton Mifflin, 1981. 9 and up.

Are they special, different, and imaginative, or are they crazy, weird, and embarrassing? When the paperboy says her parents are weird, Cindy believes him and becomes miserable trying to "unweird" them. Her parents' unique individualism results in hilarious antics, endearing them to many of those "other people," to Cindy herself, and to the lucky reader of this book. Children's Choices.

Talanda, Susan. **Dad Told Me Not To**. Illus. by Cindy Wheeler. Carnival Press Books, 1983. 4-8.

Brewster's frustrated and Dad's fed up because Brewster does what his father tells him not to do, with troublesome consequences. How does his father know everything kids shouldn't do, anyway? Grandpa explains to Brewster that his father learned these things the hard way, much to Dad's dismay until he joins the fun. A humorous reminder that dads were kids, too. (Picture book)

Tolan, Stephanie S. **The Great Skinner Strike**. Macmillan, 1983. 10-15.

This is a funny book with a serious theme of family love and liberation as the mother goes on strike for better working condi-

tions in the Skinner household. The message is feminist but not didactic. The characters move from stereotypes to interesting, growing people, especially the striking mother and her two daughters. The book will appeal to girls but would be beneficial for boys, too.

Wells, Rosemary. **A Lion for Lewis**. Illus. by author. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1982. 4-6.

A delightful story of a young child's "revenge" when given a backseat place in dress-up play with two older children. When Lewis discovers a lion suit that has been lying in a corner of the attic, he puts it on and temporarily becomes "king" of the playtime fantasy that evolves. Soft pastel illustrations are amusing and full of energy. (Picture book)

Zimelman, Nathan. **Mean Murgatroyd and the Ten Cats**. Illus. by Tony Auth. E. P. Dutton, 1984. 5-8.

Arabella plans to buy a lion to frighten away Mean Murgatroyd, the dog who chases her ten cats when she tries to take them for a walk. When no lions are available, Arabella comes up with another solution that provides a nice surprise twist to the story. Pen-and-ink illustrations with color wash highlight the chaotic scenes.

## Mystery Stories

Adler, C. S. **Footsteps on the Stairs**. Delacorte Press, 1982. 11 and up.

A satisfying mystery complete with mysterious footsteps and ghosts. Thirteen-year-old Dodie and her new stepsister, Anne, become friends as they investigate the footsteps together, and develop a sense of family.

Adler, David A. **Cam Jansen and the Mystery of the Gold Coins**. Illus. by Susanna Natti. Viking Press, 1984. 8-11.

Cam may not win first prize at the science fair with her homemade camera, but she does track down a coin thief by using her amazing mental camera. Fifth grader and super sleuth, Cam Jansen (nicknamed "Camera" because of her amazing photographic memory) and her sidekick, Eric Shelton, solve mysteries of various sorts in this and other easy-to-read "chapter" books in this series. A good addition to the classroom library to provide enjoyable practice in developing reading skills. Other books in the series include *Cam*

*Jansen and the Mystery of the Babe Ruth Baseball; Cam Jansen and the Mystery of the Circus Clown; Cam Jansen and the Mystery of the Monster Movie; and Cam Jansen and the Mystery of the Television Dog.*

- Avi. **Who Stole the Wizard of Oz?** Illus. by Derek James. Alfred A. Knopf, 1981. 9-12.

A mystery for children who have read *The Wind in the Willows*, *Through the Looking Glass*, *Treasure Island*, and *Winnie-the-Pooh*, because the clues are drawn from those books. The story is not fast paced, but it is adequately constructed.

- Bellairs, John. **The Curse of the Blue Figurine.** Dial Books for Young Readers, 1983. 10 and up.

What appeared to be the ghost of a legendary mad priest turns out to be the real thing in this tale. Suspense reigns throughout as Johnny Dixon and his friend, Professor Childermass, work to solve the mystery of the blue figurine.

- Bellairs, John. **The Mummy, the Will, and the Crypt.** Illus. by Edward Gorey. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1983. 10 and up.

Bellairs succeeds again with his special brand of mystery stories. In this sequel to *The Curse of the Blue Figurine*, Johnny Dixon and Professor Childermass face danger as they try to locate the will of an eccentric tycoon.

- Branscum, Robbie. **The Adventures of Johnny May.** Illus. by Deborah Howland. Harper & Row, 1984. 8-12.

This tautly written, backwoods murder mystery leaves young Johnny May with a moral dilemma: should she report what she has seen to other grown-ups even though the probable murderer is one of the gentlest and most respected men? The search for evidence leads to the parallel story of Johnny May's killing of a deer for a Christmas feast.

- Branscum, Robbie. **The Murder of Hound Dog Bates.** Viking Press, 1982. 9-12.

This book has all the qualities of superior fiction: a beginning that immediately piques the reader's interest, brief but vivid descriptions of Arkansas, characters with grit and spunk, a mystery that must be solved, a many-layered plot that is fast moving, and a satisfying ending.

Bromberg, Andrew. **The House on Blackthorn Hill, Plus Two More Mysteries.** Illus. by Mary Kornblum. Greenwillow Books, 1982. 9-11.

The plots in this and the other two Hidden Clue Mysteries are not especially intriguing. The three books, however, are better reading than many mysteries because the author invites readers to solve each mystery and then presents a two-page description of clues they should have found. Other books in the series are *Flute Revenge, Plus Two More Mysteries* and *Rubik's Ruse, Plus Two More Codebreakers*.

Butler, Beverly. **Ghost Cat.** Dodd, Mead, 1984. 10 and up.

A well-written tale of a girl who is haunted by a woman who disappeared forty years earlier and her ghostly cat, Macduff. Anabel's search for the key to the mystery leads to a strange and unsettling discovery.

Calhoun, Mary. **The Night the Monster Came.** Illus. by Leslie Morrill. William Morrow. 1982. 8-10.

Andy is home alone and thinking of Bigfoot, a ten-foot man-beast, when he hears noises and notices footprints in the snow. He finds he must deal with terrifying events without showing fear to his busy parents. Andy's reasons for keeping his mounting fears hidden will seem plausible to most readers.

Clifford, Eth. **The Dastardly Murder of Dirty Pete.** Illus. by George Hughes. Houghton Mifflin, 1981. 8-10.

An exciting, easy-to-read mystery. The family conflict between two sisters, as well as their growth in mutual respect, adds the depth of real character development to the story.

Clymer, Eleanor. **The Horse in the Attic.** Illus. by Ted Lewin. Bradbury Press, 1983. 8-11.

For fans of horse stories; a positive, happy story in which a twelve-year-old girl explores an attic and discovers a painting that has value for her whole family. The first-person text is easy to read and is organized by chapters.

Cooney, Caroline B. **The Paper Caper.** Illus. by Gail Owens. Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1981. 8-12.

A light-hearted mystery in which Lynn's penchant for mischief and trouble leads to the discovery of the thief who took her uncles



valuable computer program. Even the chapter titles and black-and-white illustrations attract the reader with their humor.

Corcoran, Barbara. **You're Allegro Dead**. Atheneum, 1981. 8-12.

A mystery in a camp setting. The reader needs to accept a few hard-to-believe happenings, but this is a readable, fast-paced story for mystery fans. The variety of characters and their actions seem plausible.

Dicks, Terrance. **The Baker Street Irregulars in the Case of the Cop Catchers**. Lodestar Books, 1982. 9-12.

In this title from the Baker Street Irregulars series, the sleuths set out to investigate the strange disappearance of their friend, "Happy" Day. The exciting developments lead to a very funny ending.

Elmore, Patricia. **Susannah and the Poison Green Halloween**. Illus. by Joel Schick. E. P. Dutton, 1982. 8-12.

After a slow, somewhat confusing beginning, this Halloween mystery picks up quickly as Susannah and her friends try to discover who poisoned their trick-or-treat candy. The story has all the ingredients to appeal to young mystery fans—humor, strange characters, surprise twists, and an unexpected ending. Occasional full-page, black-and-white illustrations enhance the text.

Fife, Dale. **The Sesame Seed Snatchers**. Illus. by Sandy Kossin. Houghton Mifflin, 1983. 8-11.

A wacky cast of characters and a strange disappearance make this a mystery that is fun to read. The ending is unusual but satisfying.

Hildick, E. W. **The Case of the Bashful Bank Robber**. Illus. by Lisl Weil. Macmillan, 1981. 8-12.

A well-written mystery about the adventures of the eleven-year-old sleuths in the McGurk Detective Organization. A complex plot and interesting characters. Other books in the series include *The Case of the Felon's Fiddle*; *The Case of the Four Flying Fingers*; and *The Case of the Missing Sniper*.

Hildick, E. W. **McGurk Gets Good and Mad**. Illus. by Lisl Weil. Macmillan, 1982. 8-11.

Mice are suspected of trying to sabotage the McGurk Detective Organization. This may not seem to be an urgent mystery to solve,

but humor and action make the book work despite an unexceptional plot.

Hutchins, Pat. **The Curse of the Egyptian Mummy.** Illus. by Laurence Hutchins. Greenwillow Books, 1983. 9-11.

A wacky and fun-to-read story involving a cub scout campout and a dead man's body. The plot isn't great, but there is enough mystery to keep readers wondering how the story will turn out.

Levy, Elizabeth. **Dracula Is a Pain in the Neck.** Illus. by Mordicai Gerstein. Harper & Row, 1983. 7-10.

A fast-moving, easy-reading mystery, definitely a "Don't stop reading now!" story. The characters are developed carefully through situations with which children can identify. The story is set in a boys' camp and will especially appeal to boys. Pencil-drawn illustrations are appropriately spooky.

MacDonald, Reby Edmond. **The Ghosts of Austwick Manor.** Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1982. 11 and up.

A spellbinding tale in which the reader waits for Heather and Hilary to reenter the doll-sized model house, their brother's inheritance, and wonders if they can change the course of history and save Don from the ancient curse.

Pearce, Philippa. **The Way to Sattin Shore.** Illus. by Charlotte Voake. Greenwillow Books, 1983. 10-14.

A finely crafted novel of a young girl probing into the most mysterious of all real-life situations—the "secrets" of the adults in her family. When the tombstone of Kate Tranter's father disappears from the cemetery, Kate is drawn into learning more about her past and the father she never knew. The psychological tension is real, and the mystery is engrossing with its intricacies. Superb, sophisticated writing that is nevertheless accessible to readers at this level. Teachers' Choices.

Simon, Seymour. **Chip Rogers, Computer Whiz.** Illus. by Steve Miller. William Morrow, 1984. 9-12.

Chip is a computer addict who even uses a computer to discover a gem thief. Readers are invited to use their home computers to solve the mystery. Chip provides a computer program in BASIC that will run on most home computers, although some changes

may be necessary, and he explains some introductory terms, concepts, and commands.

Simon, Seymour. *Einstein Anderson Goes to Bat*. Viking Press, 1982. 9-13.

This mystery and the others in the series involve readers in helping to solve the science problems that Einstein Anderson encounters daily. A good deal of science information on such topics as astronomy, optics, meteorology, and zoology is presented along with an element of mystery. All the books in the series are well written, but they are rather unattractive in format and appear more difficult to read than they really are. Other titles include *Einstein Anderson Lights Up the Sky*; *Einstein Anderson Makes Up for Lost Time*; *Einstein Anderson Sees through the Invisible Man*; and *Einstein Anderson Tells a Comet's Tale*.

Singer, Marilyn. *Leroy Is Missing*. Illus. by Judy Glasser. Harper & Row, 1984. 8-11.

This mystery features twin brothers as young amateur detectives in search of the missing Leroy O'Toole. There is little character development, but the fast-paced, humorous style and the dialogue carry the story. The black, gray, and white full-page illustrations seem stiff yet fit the style of the story. Also recommended is *The Case of the Sabotaged School Play*.

Sobol, Donald J. (with Glenn Andrews). *Encyclopedia Brown Takes the Cake!* Illus. by Ib Ohlsson. Four Winds Press, 1983. 8-12.

Encyclopedia Brown solves a number of food-related mysteries. The cases and solutions are interspersed with recipes in the stories that readers will want to try.

Sobol, Donald J. *Encyclopedia Brown's Book of Wacky Crimes*. Illus. by Ted Enik. Lodestar Books, 1982. 8-12.

A collection of odd crimes that actually occurred is presented in anecdotal form as Encyclopedia Brown reads his diary to his friends. The book is difficult to read for an extended time, but it could be useful for short periods. Definitely funny.

Stevenson, Drew. *The Case of the Horrible Swamp Monster*. Illus. by Susan Swan. Dodd, Mead, 1984. 9-12.

Something unexpected happens when a sixth-grade class decides to film a monster movie. The plot is flawed by a lack of foreshad-

owing in the characterization of people responsible for the crime. Nonetheless, there are enough interesting twists to keep readers involved in trying to solve the mystery.

**Voigt, Cynthia. *The Callender Papers*. Atheneum, 1983. 11 and up.**

In this story set in the late nineteenth century, a young girl is hired to sort the family papers of a man's deceased wife. She finds herself in the midst of a frightening situation and suspects that the wife's death was not really an accident.

**Wallace, Bill. *Trapped in Death Cave*. Holiday House, 1984. 9-12.**

A real spine-chiller that involves a murder and a search for hidden gold. The terrifying ending suits this fast-paced story.

**Wright, Betty Ren. *The Dollhouse Murders*. Holiday House, 1983. 10 and up.**

Amy visits her aunt, who lives alone in a large, old house, and discovers a dollhouse in the attic that is a replica of the big house. The dollhouse leads to a terrifying experience and the solution to some murders that took place years ago. Family ties and problems add a note of reality to the story.

### Stories about Other Lands and People

**Bess, Clayton. *Story for a Black Night*. Houghton Mifflin, 1982. 11 and up.**

The author uses a suspenseful story to explore the differences between old African and modern Christian attitudes toward helping the sick. It is told as a personal childhood experience in the distinctive style of an African storyteller. The theme is expressed with subtlety and balance. The clarity and simplicity of the language, the unusual syntax, and the strong story line make this a good choice for reading aloud. And it's sure to stimulate discussion of significant questions.

**Cohen, Miriam. *Born to Dance Samba*. Illus. by Gioia Fiammenghi. Harper & Row, 1984. 9-12.**

This novel, set in a colorful Brazilian shantytown, exudes energy and excitement. Eleven-year-old Maria Antonia hopes one day to be chosen "Queen of the Samba," but her current goal is to be selected the best dancer among the children. She has a rival,

however, and jealousy seems to taint her entire life. A very funny story, with line drawings that capture the humor of the writing.

Cowley, Joy. **The Silent One**. Illus. by Hermann Greissle. Alfred A. Knopf, 1981. 10 and up.

Set in New Zealand, this is the story of a deaf-mute boy who wants desperately to be included in the hunting activities of the men in his village. His handicap makes him someone they fear, however, and so his life becomes very difficult. A beautifully written story and an unusual ending.

Davis, Emmett. *See No Evil*. Illus. by Jenny Franz. Carnival Press Books, 1983. 6-8.

This adventure diary is a young Japanese girl's first-person chronicle of her search to see the famous snow monkeys that live on the mountain near her cousin's farm. The language used has a simple, almost poetic quality, but it is the beautiful watercolor illustrations that should prove most captivating to readers. (Picture book)

Delton, Julie. **My Uncle Nikos**. Illus. by Marc Simont. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1983. 6-9.

Helena has a special relationship with Uncle Nikos. She visits him every summer in his little village in the mountains of Greece, and together they tend his wonderful garden. Colorful, free-flowing illustrations capture the special warmth of this relationship and paint a joyful portrait of a different way of life.

Donnelly, Elfie. **Offbeat Friends**. Crown, 1982. 10-12.

Originally written in German, this story is set in Vienna. Mari is intrigued by a woman who is different and makes valiant efforts to help her. Most eleven-year-olds are concerned about peer pressure, but not Mari, who really acts more like an eight-year-old. There is much detail, especially visual detail, and the book is smoothly translated throughout.

Fritz, Jean. **Homesick: My Own Story**. Illus. by Margot Tomes. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1982. 10 and up.

A work of fiction based on facts the author recalls about her childhood in China. It covers a two year span ending with the political turbulence that caused her parents to return to the United States, where young Jean sees "her" country for the first time.

Smooth and convincing writing Newbery Honor Book; Teachers' Choices.

Hunter, Mollie. **Hold On to Love.** Harper & Row, 1983. 12 and up.

At fifteen, Bridie McShane is seeking independence and a writing career. Along the way she also finds Peter. Her struggle to remain true to herself and still share her life with him presents a very real present-day dilemma. Set in Scotland in the late 1930s, this story presents characters of considerable integrity caught in personal struggles as well as in the broader struggle of World War II. An absorbing, well-written book for mature readers.

Kaye, Geraldine. **The Day after Yesterday.** Illus. by Glenys Ambrus. André Deutsch, 1981. 9-14.

A gripping story of a young girl's experiences while caring for and rescuing her young sister, who is sold into slavery in Hong Kong. The style is direct, relating life in crowded Hong Kong and told as a flashback. Scattered black-and-white illustrations add to the text.

Knowles, Anne. **Under the Shadow.** Harper & Row, 1983. 10 and up.

Cathy has moved to an old house in the English countryside. Her friend Mark, who has muscular dystrophy, dreams of horseback riding as a way to soar free from his illness. Their unusual friendship—based on humor, intelligence, and sensitivity—sustains them against bitterness and fear. Cathy grows to love the old "bee master's" home, yielding surprise recompense. She's determined for Mark to ride and to use his writing talent.

Magorian, Michelle. **Back Home.** Harper & Row, 1984. 12 and up.

In this emotionally exhausting story, twelve-year-old Rusty tries to readjust to her family and the restrictions in her life when she returns to postwar England. After spending five years in the United States with a carefree, easy-going family, Rusty finds that her exuberance and outspoken ways are in direct contrast to the austere, emotionally cold, tradition-bound school and family to which she returns. The reader will be caught in the pain and loneliness Rusty feels as people try to make her conform to their expectations. Rusty's growth, as well as her mother's changes, brings about an acceptable and believable conclusion.

Marron, Carol A. **Last Look from the Mountain.** Illus. by Deborah Kogan Ray. Carnival Press Books, 1983. 5-8.

Kirsten tells of her summer herding sheep with her grandmother in the mountains of Norway. There is a dreamlike, misty quality to the full-color illustrations. The simple text and story will hold the attention of young readers.

**Matsuno, Masako. *A Pair of Red Clogs*.** Illus. by Kazue Mizumura. Philomel Books, 1981. 5-8.

The book lacks a strong plot, but the depiction of an interesting experience in the life of a Japanese child makes it enjoyable reading. The illustrations pick up details of Japanese clothing as well as home and street scenes. (Picture book)

**Morgan, Alison. *Paul's Kite*.** Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1982. 11 and up.

Set in England, this is the story of Paul, a lonely boy sent from Wales to live in London with a mother who abandoned him when he was very small. He gains independence and, in the end, a sense of family when his cousin is badly hurt in an accident for which Paul feels responsible. A well-written story.

**Nixon, Joan Lowery. *The Gift*.** Illus. by Andrew Glass. Macmillan, 1983. 8-12.

A gentle story of the relationship of a boy and his Irish grandfather, who tells him tales from Irish folklore and sparks a quest to capture a leprechaun. The story ends with a mystical adventure that is sure to please young readers. It is written with a true respect for the old ways and tales. Pencil illustrations highlight the story's magic and the warmth between the old man and the boy.

**Reiser, Joanne. *Hannah's Alaska*.** Illus. by Julie Downing. Carnival Press Books, 1983. 5-8.

Common episodes in the life of an Alaskan family are described in this simple story of Hannah and her friend, Zak. Full-color watercolor illustrations beautifully depict events and enhance the text.

**Rogers, Jean. *Goodbye, My Island*.** Illus. by Rie Muñoz. Greenwillow Books, 1983. 8-12.

The Eskimo community on King Island, about one hundred miles west of Nome, Alaska, is described by twelve-year-old Esther Atoolik. The desolate island preserved a culture sustained by close

family ties and ivory carving. But in 1964, the year of this story, the community lost its supply source from the mainland. This is the fact-based account of leaving home forever, clearly told and illustrated with authentic stylized drawings by an artist who once lived on King Island.

Smucker, Barbara. **Amish Adventure**. Herald Press, 1983. 10-12.

Although the plot is a bit improbable, the author does show the dramatic contrast between urban life and life in an Amish community in Canada. The pace of the story is good, carrying the reader into the lives of these Amish families, and some documentation is provided.

Sullivan, Mary Ann. **Child of War**. Holiday House, 1984. 10-15.

A harrowing story of life in modern-day Northern Ireland is told through the eyes of a young Catholic girl whose parents are fighting for the IRA. The gripping beginning incident sets the tone for the girl's escalating, personal need for revenge and her eventual surrender to a fantasy world of helpful, caring fairies. A dramatic, tension-filled story that compels readers to read to the end; the consequences of war are made real through identification with this tragic figure.

Wahl, Jan. **Tiger Watch**. Illus. by Charles Mikolaycak. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1982. 6-11.

Tension builds to a chilling climax in this story of a boy and his father in India as they stalk a killer tiger. The lyrical descriptions of the tiger and his surroundings enhance a well-told story. Full-color illustrations done in pencil and paint give the reader a sense of life in a far-off land. The design of the book is especially beautiful. (Picture book)

Wallace, Ian. **Chin Chiang and the Dragon's Dance**. Illus. by author. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1984. 7-10.

Chin Chiang is afraid his awkwardness will spoil the New Year's dragon's dance and bring bad luck to his people. He escapes to privacy on the library roof and is surprised by the help he finds there. Watercolor illustrations contribute to the authentic Chinese holiday setting. (Picture book)

Walsh, Jill Paton. **Gaffer Samson's Luck**. Illus. by Brock Cole. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1984. 9-12.



This brief novel skips all the nonessentials and gets to the heart of the matter: growing a little, growing the right way in a new strange place (the Fens near Cambridge) where the other kids are unfriendly and menacing and where a dying old man needs his "luck"—a little leaf of stone buried somewhere beneath the Fen. The plot and diction are masterful.

### Sports Stories

Knudson, R. R. *Zan Hagen's Marathon*. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1984. 12 and up.

After setting a record at the Virginia Cross-Country Championship, Zan (Suzanne) Hagen, with the encouragement of her friend and coach, Arthur Rinehart, sets her goals for Olympic gold in 1984, when the first women's marathon in Olympic history is to take place in Los Angeles. A rather choppy, slow starter, and Zan's initial cockiness seems a bit overdone, but good reading for potential marathoners, armchair or otherwise.

Lewis, Marjorie. *Wrongway Applebaum*. Illus. by Margot Apple. Coward-McCann, 1984. 8-11.

Many readers will understand Applebaum's dilemma—his inability to remember things that are important for surviving, things like rules of games and homework assignments. Baseball is his biggest problem, however, until he finds an unlikely coach in his grandmother.

Slote, Alfred. *Rabbit Ears*. J. B. Lippincott, 1982. 10-14.

When Tip moves up to pitch in a more competitive baseball league, his confidence is shattered by the taunts of the opposing teams. With some unexpected help from his younger brother, Tip learns to deal with his fears in a unique but constructive way. A nicely done sports book that rises beyond the trappings of the genre to explore the issue of competition. The story is written at a comfortable reading level. It's also humorous, while managing to maintain respect for Tip's problem.

### Additional Contemporary Realistic Fiction Books

Alexander, Martha. *When the New Baby Comes, I'm Moving Out*. Illus. by author. Dial Press, 1979. 3-7.

- Armstrong, William H. *Sounder*. Illus. by James Barkley. Harper & Row, 1969. 12 and up.
- Bawden, Nina. *Rebel on a Rock*. J. B. Lippincott, 1978. 10 and up.
- Blume, Judy. *Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret*. Bradbury Press, 1970. 10-12.
- Bonsall, Crosby N. *The Case of the Hungry Stranger*. Illus. by author. Harper & Row, 1953. 5-10.
- Brown, Margaret Wise. *When the Wind Blew*. Illus. by Geoffrey R. Hayes. Harper & Row, 1977. 4-6.
- Burch, Robert. *Queenie Peavy*. Illus. by Jerry Lazare. Viking Press, 1966. 10-14.
- Byars, Betsy. *The Night Swimmers*. Delacorte Press, 1980. 10 and up.
- Byars, Betsy. *The Pinballs*. Harper & Row, 1977. 10 and up.
- Byars, Betsy. *Summer of the Swans*. Illus. by Ted Coconis. Viking Press, 1970. 10 and up.
- Childress, Alice. *A Hero Ain't Nothin' But a Sandwich*. Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1973. 11 and up.
- Cleary, Beverly. *Ramona and Her Father*. Illus. by Alan Tiegreen. William Morrow, 1977. 8-12.
- Cleary, Beverly. *Ramona and Her Mother*. Illus. by Alan Tiegreen. William Morrow, 1979. 8-12.
- Cleary, Beverly. *Ramona the Brave*. Illus. by Alan Tiegreen. William Morrow, 1975. 8-12.
- Cleaver, Vera, and Bill Cleaver. *Ellen Grae*. Illus. by Ellen Raskin. J. B. Lippincott, 1967. 9-11.
- Cleaver, Vera, and Bill Cleaver. *Where the Lillies Bloom*. Illus. by Jim Spanfeller. J. B. Lippincott, 1969. 11-14.
- Clifton, Lucille. *My Brother Fine with Me*. Illus. by Moneta Barnett. Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1975. 5-8.
- Danziger, Paula. *The Cat Ate My Gymsuit*. Delacorte Press, 1974. 11-13.
- de Paola, Tomie. *Nana Upstairs and Nana Downstairs*. Illus. by author. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1973. 6-8.
- Donovan, John. *I'll Get There: It Better Be Worth the Trip*. Harper & Row, 1969. 11-14.
- Estes, Eleanor. *The Hundred Dresses*. Illus. by Louis Slobodkin. Harcourt, Brace & World, 1944. 10-12.
- Ets, Marie Hall. *Gilberto and the Wind*. Illus. by author. Viking Press, 1963. 3-6.
- Fitzhugh, Louise. *Harriet the Spy*. Illus. by author. Harper & Row, 1964. 10-14.

- Gates, Doris. *Blue Willow*. Illus. by Paul Lantz. Viking Press, 1940. 10-12.
- George, Jean Craighead. *Julie of the Wolves*. Illus. by John Schoenherr. Harper & Row, 1972. 10-13.
- George, Jean Craighead. *My Side of the Mountain*. Illus. by author. E. P. Dutton, 1959. 10-13.
- Goffstein, M. B. *Fish for Supper*. Dial Press, 1976. All ages.
- Greene, Bette. *Philip Hall Likes Me, I Reckon Maybe*. Illus. by Charles Lilly. Dial Press, 1974. 9-12.
- Greene, Constance C. *Beat the Turtle Drum*. Illus. by Donna Diamond. Viking Press, 1976. 8-12.
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# Poetry

## Anthologies

Amon, Aline, editor. **The Earth Is Sore: Native Americans on Nature.** Illus. by editor. Atheneum, 1981. 9 and up.

A collection of Native American poetry on the theme of nature. The poems move from celebration to a cry against abuse of the earth. Explanations of the poems and their sources are included on each page. The illustrations are delicate collages of prints made from natural materials.

Bennett, Jill, compiler. **Days Are Where We Live and Other Poems.** Illus. by Maureen Roffey. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1982. 4-8.

A collection of poetry designed for young children to read by themselves as well as to hear. The richly rhymed poems are characterized by strong rhythms and clear imagery. Writers such as John Ciardi, Eve Merriam, and David McCord are represented by poems that center on daily happenings. Each poem is accompanied by colorful, humorous drawings that add to the effect of the written word.

Bennett, Jill, compiler. **Roger Was a Razor Fish and Other Poems.** Illus. by Maureen Roffey. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1981. 7-11.

Printed in large type and accompanied by colorful, humorous illustrations, this is a poetry collection for young children to read themselves. The poems vary from humorous verse to Robert Frost's "The Pasture." They are characterized by strong, quick-moving imagery and contemporary content that will delight young children.

Bierhorst, John, editor. **The Sacred Path: Spells, Prayers and Power Songs of the American Indians.** William Morrow, 1983. 10 and up.

This anthology of North and South American Indian poetry is organized to demonstrate the Indian belief that words have power; poems about birth and death, crops and weather, and other aspects of Indian life are included. The extensive list of sources and notes that help explain the meanings of the poems illustrate the editor's knowledge of Indian culture and language. A companion volume to *In the Trail of the Wind*.

Blegvad, Lenore, compiler. **The Parrot in the Garret and Other Rhymes about Dwellings.** Illus. by Erik Blegvad. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1982. 2-9.

A thematic collection of nursery rhymes dealing with all kinds of houses and their inhabitants; some are familiar ("Little Tommy Tittlehouse" and "There Was an Old Woman"), while others are less so. Pen-and-ink illustrations, many done with watercolors, magnify the rhymes and enhance the subtle humor. The small size of the book suits small rhymes.

Cole, Joanna, compiler. **A New Treasury of Children's Poetry: Old Favorites and New Discoveries.** Illus. by Judith Gwyn Brown. Doubleday, 1984. 5-13.

A collection of over 200 poems, some familiar and others less known, some classic and some contemporary, arranged according to themes and topics. A title and author index is included. An excellent collection for classroom use. The brief introduction to each section will entice the reader to become involved in the poems.

Cole, William, compiler. **Poem Stew.** Illus. by Karen Ann Weinhaus. J. B. Lippincott, 1981. 8-11.

An amusing collection of food-oriented poems. Black-and-white illustrations underscore the humor. *Children's Choices*.

de Gerez, Toni, adapter. **My Song Is a Piece of Jade.** Illus. by William Stark. Little, Brown, 1984. 8-15.

An anthology of poems of the ancient Toltecs of Mexico, written in both English and Spanish. Simple, wise, and rich in imagery, these poems are a gift to the reader from across centuries. They make clear that to be a Toltec means "to be a wise man, to be an artist."

Hopkins, Lee Bennett, compiler. **And God Bless Me: Prayers, Lullabies, and Dream-Poems.** Illus. by Patricia Henderson Lincoln. Alfred A. Knopf, 1982. 4-7.

There is a strong variety of style in this collection of poems and verse that includes works by Carl Sandburg, Karla Kuskin, Langston Hughes, and others. Free-verse poems, Indian chants, and rhymed poetry center on going-to-sleep topics that appeal to young children. Accompanied by full-color and black-and-white drawings.

Hopkins, Lee Bennett, compiler. **The Sky Is Full of Song.** Illus. by Dirk Zimmer. Harper & Row, 1983. 8-12.

A truly beautiful book. A diverse collection of thirty-eight short poems designed to capture the mood of each season. Softly toned linecuts accompany each poem and increase the sense of beauty each conveys. Many outstanding poets are represented by works that are strong in both imagery and rhythm. Children's Choices.

Hopkins, Lee Bennett, compiler. **A Song in Stone: City Poems.** Photographs by Anna Held Audette. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1983. 7-12.

With language as bold and noisy as the city streets, this anthology of poems sings of city life from pigeons to foghorns and from subways to skyscrapers. Black-and-white photographs reflect the images of city life that writers like Eve Merriam and Myra Cohn Livingston explore with words. Teachers' Choices.

Hopkins, Lee Bennett, compiler. **Surprises.** Illus. by Megan Lloyd. Harper & Row, 1984. 4-8.

Poems on many subjects with a wide variety of styles and authors, including Karla Kuskin, Maxine Kumin, and X. J. Kennedy. An easy-to-read collection for independent reading.

Janeczko, Paul B., compiler. **Strings: A Gathering of Family Poems.** Bradbury Press, 1984. 12 and up.

A comprehensive collection of 125 poems covering every aspect of family life: spouse, parent, child, sibling, grandchild. The selection also includes poems that depict the entire spectrum of family emotions; many are about loving, but others deal with anger, resentment, and bitterness. Modern poets whose work is presented include X. J. Kennedy, Siv Cedering, Donald Hall, Robert Bly, and many other well-known poets. A moving collection for exploring an important American institution, the family.

Lalicki, Barbara, compiler. **If There Were Dreams to Sell.** Illus. by Margot Tomes. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1984. All ages.

An unusual alphabet book. Margot Tomes's colorful paintings illustrate lines of poetry that range from Mother Goose to Emily



Dickinson to Tolkien. There is a sense of both history and mystery in the illustrations, which show eighteenth-century characters and scenes both realistic and fantastic.

Larrick, Nancy, compiler. **Tambourines! Tambourines to Glory! Prayers and Poems.** Illus. by Geri Greinke. Westminster Press, 1982. All ages.

A collection of seventy-six prayer poems from a wide variety of sources. Poems from other cultures or eras are identified. Drawn from children and professional writers, the poems are in the language of the child. Delicate line drawings on each page.

Larrick, Nancy, compiler. **When the Dark Comes Dancing: A Bedtime Poetry Book.** Illus. by John Wallner. Philomel Books, 1983. 4-6.

A gentle and beautiful collection of poems, lullabies, and lyrics for bedtime reading to young children. Drawing on resources across time and cultures, Larrick has compiled a range of styles and images, but the emphasis throughout is on the soothing, soft rhythms of the night. Illustrations in black and white and in color convey the same reassuring sense of tranquility. Also, an introduction by Larrick gives suggestions for read-aloud times, which parents should appreciate.

Livingston, Myra Cohn, editor. **Why Am I Grown So Cold? Poems of the Unknowable.** Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1982. 8 and up.

A thorough coverage of the best poetry on eerie, spooky topics from a variety of cultures and eras. The organization leads to easy location according to mood and setting. There will be much demand for this book, especially seasonally. It is not so large that it can't be held easily when reading aloud; at the same time, it does present a number of poems.

Michels, Barbara, and Bettye White, compilers and editors. **Apples on a Stick: The Folklore of Black Children.** Illus. by Jerry Pinkney. Coward-McCann, 1983. 8-12.

A collection of folk poetry or playground poetry. It includes counting rhymes and rhyming games and is a good reflection of children's play.

Roche, P. K., compiler. **Jump All the Morning: A Child's Day in Verse.** Illus. by compiler. Viking Kestrel, 1984. 3-7.

This collection of children's favorite verses focuses on events in a

child's day: waking up, eating, counting, jumping rope, going to bed. Ink and watercolor illustrations are heightened by tempera washes.

Russo, Susan, compiler. **The Ice Cream Ocean and Other Delectable Poems of the Sea.** Illus. by compiler. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1984. 2-7.

An anthology of imaginative light verse on the theme of the sea. Poets include X. J. Kennedy, Dennis Lee, Maxine Kumin, Jane Yolen, and other prolific writers for children. Illustrations are candy-colored, humorous, and lively. An appealing book of poetry for young children.

Streich, Corrine, compiler. **Grandparents' Houses: Poems about Grandparents.** Illus. by Lillian Hoban. Greenwillow Books, 1984. 12 and up.

Poems by well-known poets and by unknown poets; poems from many cultures. All celebrate and investigate the special relationships of children and grandparents. Each is grandly illustrated with paintings that seem inspired in color and line by Van Gogh. The polished design enhances the richness of poems and paintings.

### Individual Poets

Adoff, Arnold. **All the Colors of the Race.** Illus. by John Steptoe. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1982. 8-12.

Brown, tan, pale honey, and creamy gold are some of the colors celebrated in this collection of Adoff's short free verse. Written from the viewpoint of a child in a multiracial family, these poems examine the questions and joys of growing up with a diverse ethnic heritage. Brown and tan block prints by Steptoe provide a fine accompaniment to the text.

Adoff, Arnold. **Birds.** Illus. by Troy Howell. Harper & Row, 1982. 6-10.

Lovely free-flowing poetry is sung from the bird's perspective. The poems are almost visual in their description and are placed on the page in a pattern that creates a rhythm of words. Filmy gray illustrations beautifully accent the mood.

Adoff, Arnold. **Today We Are Brother and Sister.** Illus. by Glo Coalson. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1981. All ages.

A brother and sister who are always fighting spend a special vacation day scuba diving and are drawn closer together by their surroundings: "Sister sand and brother beach: together each, together each." Adoff's free verse is interwoven with colorful sea paintings. Both the topic and the action-filled images in the poems will appeal to children.

Baskin, Leonard (with Tobias, Hosea, Lucretia, and Lisa Baskin). **Hosie's Zoo**. Illus. by author. Viking Press, 1981. 10 and up.

With dark, mysterious watercolors, Baskin paints riveting portraits of animals, conveying both the strength and the brutality of wild creatures. The illustrations are accompanied by short poems written in succinct and richly descriptive language. (Picture book)

Baylor, Byrd. **Desert Voices**. Illus. by Peter Parnall. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1981. 8 and up.

The reader feels at one with the desert of the Southwest while listening to the voices of its inhabitants tell how they survive in such a foreboding landscape. The rhythm of the chanting moves the reader from poem to poem in this collection of free verse. The austere beauty of the desert is captured in pen-and-ink illustrations slashed with bright, desert colors.

Baylor, Byrd. **Moon Song**. Illus. by Ronald Himler. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1982. 8-12.

This poetic retelling of a Pima Indian legend of Moon and her child, Coyote, explains why coyotes sing their haunting calls each night. Dramatic black-and-white illustrations heighten the mystical qualities of the poetry. Bordered in bold Indian patterns.

Behn, Harry (compiled by Lee Bennett Hopkins). **Crickets and Bullfrogs and Whispers of Thunder**. Illus. by author. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1984. All ages.

A collection of fifty poems from previously published works of Behn. Poems are grouped according to seasons, fantasy, and childhood adventures, and remarks about Behn and his work introduce the collection. An index of titles and first lines is included. An excellent source for a good variety of poems.

Bodecker, N. M. **Snowman Sniffles and Other Verse**. Illus. by author. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1983. All ages.

Wordplay, humor, and a fresh look at the familiar characterize these small poems that will appeal to children. Many are reminis-

cent of those by Ogden Nash. Simple line drawings enhance the humor of the poetry. The small size of the book attracts and suits the compact poems.

Cendrars, Blaise. **Shadow**. Illus. by Marcia Brown. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1982. 9-12.

A poem based on images from the accounts of African storytellers to explain the mysterious phenomenon of shadow. The illustrations match the text in strength and visual impact, and the use of varied media offers a base for creative interpretation of the poetic image. Caldecott Medal Book; Teachers' Choices.

Esbensen, Barbara Juster. **Cold Stars and Fireflies: Poems of the Four Seasons**. Illus. by Susan Bonners. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1984. 8-12.

Each of these fresh, imagistic season poems presents a new way of experiencing the familiar world. The imaginative language gives birth to its own inner rhythms: "Wake up, bears!/All the news/is printed on the stones/in green velvet." Illustrations are soft smudges of color.

Fisher, Aileen. **Rabbits, Rabbits**. Illus. by Gail Niemann. Harper & Row, 1983. 4-9.

A small book of poems about many kinds of rabbits during all seasons. Children will find the subject matter appealing and will also enjoy the strong rhymes and rhythms in each poem. The mood is enhanced by lushly colored illustrations of rabbits leaping everywhere, sometimes even out of the picture.

Ginsburg, Mirra, adapter. **The Sun's Asleep behind the Hill**. Illus. by Paul O. Zelinsky. Greenwillow Books, 1982. 2-6.

The text of this bedtime book is an adaptation of an Armenian song filled with gentle rhythms and clear images. The poetry and the beautiful realistic illustrations, which are rich yet muted, complement each other perfectly. (Picture book)

Greenfield, Eloise. **Daydreamers**. Illus. by Tom Feelings. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1981. 5-10.

The soft texture in the drawings contrasts with the strength of the concise philosophy in the text. Children will view the book slowly, because that is the mood and pacing of the contents, and will enjoy the strong metaphors. The book is elegant without being pretentious or preachy. (Picture book)

Hoberman, Mary Ann. **The Cozy Book**. Illus. by Tony Chen. Viking Press, 1982. 4-8.

An extended poem cataloging a variety of things that may make children feel cozy: foods, smells, music, games, and many other things that evoke feelings of warmth. The strong rhymes and rhythms will appeal to young children. The full-color illustrations are filled with cozy things to identify.

Hoberman, Mary Ann. **Yellow Butter, Purple Jelly, Red Jam, Black Bread**. Illus. by Chaya Burstein. Viking Press, 1981. 4-9.

Funny poems about subjects that interest children: animals, food, friends. Many use tricky wordplay or strong rhyme and rhythm. Cartoon-styled pencil drawings enhance the light mood of the poetry.

Hughes, Ted. **Under the North Star**. Illus. by Leonard Baskin. Viking Press, 1981. 6 and up.

Baskin's full-color drawings capture the essence of the lonely, mysterious animals of the north portrayed in Hughes's poetry. A loon, grizzly bear, wolf, and mosquito walk and hunt these pages in unforgettable images and rhythms that fit each creature.

Kumin, Maxine. **The Microscope**. Illus. by Arnold Lobel. Harper & Row, 1984. 4-8.

The story of Anton van Leeuwenhoek and his experiments with the microscope is told in humorous verse. Children will enjoy the last rhyme of *dope* and *microscope*. Illustrations in black and white look like seventeenth-century engravings. Together, the text and illustrations present magnified images of lice, ox eyes, and so forth that give the feeling of looking through a microscope.

Kuskin, Karla. **Night Again**. Illus. by author. Atlantic Monthly Press Books, 1981. 2-6.

This lulling poem uses strong imagery to tell of the bedtime rituals of a young child. The illustrations in this smart book are contained in circles, giving the illusion that the reader is peeking into the child's private world. Yellow and blue are used effectively to create a night world.

Lawrence, D. H. (compiled by Alice and Martin Provensen). **Birds, Beasts and the Third Thing**. Illus. by compilers. Viking Press, 1982. 5 and up.

The selected poems present a quiet philosophy. The enjoyment of aloneness will strike children as an idea they have had but didn't know anyone else felt. The illustrations, mainly in rusts and yellows with green and blue accents, are individual for each poem but could be on the same day in the same town. The composition of the scenes encompasses much detail but always draws the eye to the boy who likes aloneness.

Lear, Edward (adapted by Hilary Knight). **The Owl and the Pussycat**. Illus. by adapter. Macmillan, 1983. All ages.

With the help of Professor Comfort, Polly and Otto become—for a moment—the famous owl and pussycat, setting sail in their beautiful pea-green boat for the land where the bong trees grow. Relying largely on the Lear poem for text, Knight creates dreamlike and whimsical illustrations brimming with well-chosen detail and sparkling good humor. A rich and entertaining adaptation for all ages.

Lear, Edward. **The Owl and the Pussycat**. Illus. by Janet Stevens. Holiday House, 1983. All ages.

A fresh and utterly captivating picture of this famous couple. The details in the illustrations show a debonair owl and an enamored pussycat setting off on a launch piloted by a bear who also plays the violin. (Picture book)

Livingston, Myra Cohn. **A Circle of Seasons**. Illus. by Leonard Everett Fisher. Holiday House, 1982. 5 and up.

The four seasons are eloquently revealed in the melding of poems and paintings. Colors blend from one picture to the next and, finally, circle complete, the last being the first. The metaphors are designed to stir images for all the senses. The book far surpasses most other books of poetry.

Livingston, Myra Cohn. **Sky Songs**. Illus. by Leonard Everett Fisher. Holiday House, 1984. 9–14.

Bold acrylics blend to create an appropriate tone for poems about the sky, ranging from the universe to sunrise and sunset, and from a rainbow to smog. The poetry is filled with dramatic figurative language, some comfortably familiar, some stimulatingly fresh. The book could be used as an excellent introduction to rhymeless poetry.

Lobel, Arnold. **The Book of Pigericks: Fig Limericks**. Illus. by author. Harper & Row, 1983. 6–10.

An old pig with a pen and a moustache recounts various fantastic adventures of some very funny pastel pigs. Limericks, always popular with children, are made even more interesting by incorporating the names of such American cities as Schenectady and Woonsocket. *Children's Choices*.

Lobel, Arnold. **The Rose in My Garden**. Illus. by Anita Lobel. Greenwillow Books, 1984. 5-10.

With line-by-line simplicity, a poem unravels a story of the rich variety of plant life that surrounds a single red rose in a garden. The text is elegant in its celebration of the colorful confusion of flowers in the garden, but there is also a gentle nudge of humor in the story when a cat-mouse chase disrupts the serenity of the setting. Both text and the finely detailed illustrations spill out from their borders with the suggestion of action and growth in this seemingly quiet setting. An excellent book that deserves to be read aloud. (Picture book)

Margolis, Richard J. **Secrets of a Small Brother**. Illus. by Donald Carrick. Macmillan, 1984. 6-10.

A book younger brothers will love. They will smile in recognition at every poem. Margolis has captured the feelings of being the younger one as a boy talks about his life with his brother. Black-and-white drawings complement the poems on each page.

Martin, Bill, Jr. **Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?** Illus. by Eric Carle. Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1983. 4-6.

Brightly colored animals splashed across a two-page layout set the dramatic stage for this read-aloud chant. Beginning with "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you see?" each page answers the call by revealing an animal or person, who, in turn, leads to a new verse. This chant, originally part of Martin's reading series, is definitely deserving of a place among picture books. It's almost impossible to read this book silently. The bold collages, with their rough edges and overlays of color, are as enchanting as the text. *Children's Choices*. (Picture book)

Merriam, Eve. **A Word or Two with You: New Rhymes for Young Readers**. Illus. by John Nez. Atheneum, 1981. 6-12.

An effective use of rhythm and rhyme to make light-hearted, poetic comments on life in today's world. Children will like the wordplay and mild satire. "What is a Rhyme?" really answers the question.

Moore, Lilian. **Something New Begins.** Illus. by Mary Jane Dunton. Atheneum, 1982. 8 and up.

Simple, beautiful poems celebrating everyday life and the world around us. Some of the poems are new, while others have appeared in other collections. The language is tight, exact, and imagistic. The poems invite close examination.

Noyes, Alfred. **The Highwayman.** Illus. by Charles Mikolaycak. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1983. 8 and up.

A ballad of self-sacrifice containing many appeals to the eyes and ears. Bold black-and-white illustrations with red detail dramatize the action and emotion of this tragic story of the highwayman returning to his true love. The rhythm and repetition of the poem make it good for reading aloud.

Peet, Bill. **No Such Things.** Illus. by author. Houghton Mifflin, 1983. 4-9.

A lively collection of humorous verses about some most unusual creatures—Twumps, Juggarums, Skeezaboos—that are very inventive in their absurdity. The book is highlighted with full-color, appropriately comical illustrations of each creature. Children's Choices.

Pomerantz, Charlotte. **All Asleep.** Illus. by Nancy Tafuri. Greenwillow Books, 1984. 3-7.

Bedtime poems for young children with lulling rhymes, rhythm, and content. Sometimes the cuteness affects the meaning (such as a lamb having a "lambkin"), but on the whole the poems have childlike appeal. Boldly drawn illustrations are colored in soft, nighttime pastels and are thematically bordered.

Pomerantz, Charlotte. **If I Had a Paka: Poems in Eleven Languages.** Illus. by Nancy Tafuri. Greenwillow Books, 1982. 6-10.

Clever word substitutions and alliteration incorporate Swahili, Samoan, Japanese, Yiddish, and other languages into poems designed to appeal to the ear, the funnybone, and the heart. Bright illustrations add international clues to assist in understanding these poems about food, animals, and adventure. Teachers' Choices.

Prelutsky, Jack. **The Baby Uggs Are Hatching.** Illus. by James Stevenson. Greenwillow Books, 1982. All ages.



A light-hearted collection of imaginative monster poems characterized by strong rhythms and both internal and ending rhyme schemes. The illustrations are as energetic and as droll as the poems they accompany. Children will enjoy the subjects and the wordplay. "The Sneezysnoozer" is sure to tongue-tie the most fluent reader.

Prelutsky, Jack. **It's Snowing! It's Snowing!** Illus. by Jeanne Titherington. Greenwillow Books, 1984. 6-12.

Winter poems capture the moods of the season in shimmering images and metaphors that will appeal to children. Some poems are touched with humor, others with pathos. Realistic pencil illustrations, washed in a pale icy blue, intensify the poetry and winter's beauty.

Prelutsky, Jack. **The New Kid on the Block.** Illus. by James Stevenson. Greenwillow Books, 1984. 8 and up.

Strange characters, humorous and often implausible situations, repetitious phrases, tongue-twisting words and phrases, and newly coined words are all found in this collection of poems. Humorous, cartoon-styled illustrations accompany many poems. Children will take to these poems, but they will need acquaintance with other poetry to understand that this is but one type of poetry.

Prelutsky, Jack. **The Sheriff of Rottenshot.** Illus. by Victoria Chess. Greenwillow Books, 1982. All ages.

Funny poems about people and subjects that will really attract children. The absurdity of the poetry is matched by the droll humor of the illustrations. The many tongue-twisters and the strong rhythms and rhymes will lead to much rereading and enjoyment.

Prelutsky, Jack. **What I Did Last Summer.** Illus. by Yossi Abolafia. Greenwillow Books, 1984. 5-9.

A collection of humorous poems about summer activities. Catchy titles and cartoon-style illustrations add to the fun. Young children will chuckle and relate to the adventures when they hear these poems at the start of the school year.

Prelutsky, Jack. **Zoo Doings: Animal Poems.** Illus. by Paul O. Zelinsky. Greenwillow Books, 1983. 6-10.

These wonderfully absurd and chantable poems celebrate the foibles and idiosyncrasies of various members of the animal kingdom.

With poems selected from three of Prelutsky's earlier books, this compilation won't disappoint young readers who enjoy the droll humor and language play for which Prelutsky is famous. Pen-and-ink sketches by Zelinsky are the perfect match for these poems, with their irreverent humor and sense of movement.

Prince, Pamela. **The Secret World of Teddy Bears.** Photographs by Elaine Faris Keenan. Harmony Books, 1983. All ages.

For teddy-bear aficionados of all ages, these rhymes describe teddies in the roles they assume while people aren't watching. The verses are illustrated with posed photos of actual teddy bears.

Riley, James Whitcomb. **Little Orphan Annie.** Illus. by Diane Stanley. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1983. All ages.

Cross-hatched, halftone illustrations in blue, yellow, and black use realistic late-nineteenth-century detail in costume and setting. Frightening goblins are not depicted here, but the effect of this orphan's tale is clearly reflected in the faces of her audience. Shadows cast by fire and lamplight add to the atmosphere in this edition of Riley's poem.

Ryder, Joanne. **The Snail's Spell.** Illus. by Lynne Cherry. Frederick Warne, 1982. 5-8.

A poetic description of the movement of a snail, inviting the reader to imagine what it might be like to be a snail. Full-color illustrations add further detail. (Picture book)

Rylant, Cynthia. **Waiting to Waltz: A Childhood.** Illus. by Stephen Gammell. Bradbury Press, 1984. 11 and up.

An autobiographical collection of poems depicts the growing-up years of a young girl in a small rural town. The free verse is richly emotional, filled with lucid images and universal themes. Pencil illustrations in soft shades of gray are as evocative as the poetry, enhancing the mood of quiet yearning.

Sandburg, Carl (edited by Lee Bennett Hopkins). **Rainbows Are Made: Poems by Carl Sandburg.** Illus. by Fritz Eichenberg. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1984. 9-12.

Poems in this collection are organized in six sections representing poems about people, wordplay, everyday things, nature, the sea, and night. Each section opens with one of Sandburg's definitions

of poetry. The black-and-white woodcuts suit the tone of these poems well. *Teachers' Choices*.

Siebert, Diane. **Truck Song**. Illus. by Byron Barton. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1984. 4-10.

An illustrated poem about trucks in the city and trucks on the open road. The poem has a Sandburg flavor and, through repetition, flows with the natural rhythms of the road. Large geometric paintings in primary colors blend with the poem, creating a delightful book to read or to hear. (Picture book)

Smart, Christopher. **For I Will Consider My Cat Jeffrey**. Illus. by Emily Arnold McCully. Atheneum, 1984. 10 and up.

This illustrated poem is part of "Jubilate Agno," written by Smart in 1757 in a London madhouse. Its parallel form has been used as a model by contemporary poets also writing about animals. Because of its difficult vocabulary and syntax, it is better heard than read individually by children. Illustrations move between black-and-white drawings of the cat and detailed watercolors of busy London streets. (Picture book)

Stevenson, Robert Louis. **A Child's Garden of Verses**. Illus. by Tasha Tudor. Rand McNally, 1981. 4-9.

In this lavishly illustrated collection, each poem is framed and becomes part of the illustration. Although some illustrations are saccharine, most portray effectively the poetic mood of the experiences and feelings of childhood.

Stevenson, Robert Louis. **The Moon**. Illus. by Denise Saldutti. Harper & Row, 1984. 3-7.

A small book of warm, fresh paintings illustrating and interpreting in a contemporary setting Stevenson's lively night poem.

Viorst, Judith. **If I Were in Charge of the World and Other Worries**. Illus. by Lynne Cherry. Atheneum, 1983. 8-11.

Most poems in this collection have a humorous twist, but throughout there is an underlying sense of children's very real concerns. The illustrations match the childlike quality of the poetry. *Children's Choices*.

Whiteside, Karen. **Lullaby of the Wind**. Illus. by Kazue Mizumura. Harper & Row, 1984. 2-5.

A poetic journey into sleep for the very young child. The wind is described as it lulls to sleep the objects in a child's world. Delicate two-color illustrations enhance the quiet images of the text. (Picture book)

Willard, Nancy. **A Visit to William Blake's Inn: Poems for Innocent and Experienced Travelers.** Illus. by Alice and Martin Provensen. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1981. 7-10.

A collection of poems written to guide listeners or readers through an imaginary inn, one which might have been occupied by the poet William Blake. Eloquent illustrations in a brown-toned primitive style on antiqued pages will attract the reader with their detail, their total composition, and their exceptionally fine use of space. The backdrop of London's architecture provides overall continuity, as do the illustrators' appealing animals. Caldecott Honor Book; Newbery Medal Book.

Zolotow, Charlotte. **Some Things Go Together.** Illus. by Karen Gundersheimer. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1983. 3-7.

In this small, cheerful, easy-to-handle book, fifteen simple sing-song verses pair objects that go together. Some verses—"Pigeons with park" and "Stars with dark"—are detailed on full pages with color illustrations. Others—"Hats with heads" and "Pillows with beds"—are coupled on single pages. *Children's Choices*.

Zolotow, Charlotte. **Summer Is. . .** Illus. by Ruth Lercher Bornstein. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1983. 4-9.

A book about the seasons written in a simple poetic style. The text, initially published in 1967, describes each season through familiar childhood pleasures. The richly hued illustrations extend the text nicely, fleshing out the lean descriptions with warm, straightforward scenes of mother and child. The book could be used to stimulate creative writing.

### Additional Poetry Books

Adoff, Arnold. **Eats: Poems.** Illus. by Susan Russo. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1979. 9-11.

Adoff, Arnold, editor. **I Am the Darker Brother: An Anthology of Modern Poems by Negro Americans.** Illus. by Benny Andrews. Macmillan, 1968. 9 and up.

- Adoff, Arnold. *Make a Circle Keep Us In: Poems for a Good Day*. Illus. by Ronald Himler. Delacorte Press, 1975. 6-8.
- Aldis, Dorothy. *All Together: A Child's Treasury of Verse*. Illus. by Helen Jameson, Marjorie Flack, and Margaret Freeman. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1952. 4-7.
- Arbuthnot, May Hill, and Shelton Root, Jr., compilers. *Time for Poetry*, 3d ed. Illus. by Arthur Paul. Scott, Foresman, 1967. 5-13.
- Association for Children Education International, compiler. *Sung under the Silver Umbrella*. Macmillan, 1962. 4-8.
- Atwood, Ann. *Haiku: The Mood of the Earth*. Photographs by author. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1971. 8-16.
- Baron, Virginia Olsen, compiler. *The Seasons of Time. Tanka Poetry of Ancient Japan*. Illus. by Yasuhide Kobashi. Dial Press, 1968. 12 and up.
- Behn, Harry. *Cricket Songs: Japanese Haiku*. Illus. by Sesshu and other Japanese masters. Harcourt, Brace & World, 1964. 9 and up.
- Bodecker, N. M. *Hurry, Hurry, Mary Dear! And Other Nonsense Poems*. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1976. 9 and up.
- Brewton, Sara, and John E. Brewton, compilers. *Laughable Limericks*. Illus. by Ingrid Fetz. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1965. 8-11.
- Brooke, L. Leslie. *Ring O' Roses*, rev. ed. Frederick Warne, 1977. 3-7.
- Brooks, Gwendolyn. *Bronzeville Boys and Girls*. Illus. by Ronni Solbert. Harper & Row, 1956. 7-11.
- Cedering-Fox, Siv. *The Blue Horse and Other Night Poems*. Illus. by Donald Carrick. Clarion Books, 1979. 6-10.
- Ciardi, John. *The Reason for the Pelican*. Illus. by Madeleine Gekiere. J. B. Lippincott, 1959. 6-10.
- Ciardi, John. *You Read to Me, I'll Read to You*. Illus. by Edward Gorey. J. B. Lippincott, 1961. 5-8.
- Coatsworth, Elizabeth. *Sparrow Bush*. Illus. by Stefan Martin. W. W. Norton, 1966. 9-11.
- Cole, William, editor. *Oh, That's Ridiculous!* Illus. by Tomi Ungerer. Viking Press, 1972. All ages.
- De Angeli, Marguerite. *Book of Nursery and Mother Goose Rhymes*. Illus. by author. Doubleday, 1954. 3-7.
- Doob, Leonard W., compiler. *A Crocodile Has Me by the Leg: African Poems*. Illus. by Solomon I. Wangboje. Walker, 1968. 9-14.
- Dunning, Stephen, Edward Lueders, and Hugh Smith, compilers. *Reflections on a Gift of Watermelon Pickle and Other Modern Verse*. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1966. 12 and up.
- Field, Rachel. *Poems*. Illus. by author. Macmillan, 1957. 8 and up.

- Fisher, Aileen. *Feathered Ones and Furry*. Illus. by Eric Carle. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1971. 6-12.
- Froman, Robert. *Street Poems*. Saturday Review Press, 1971. 8 and up.
- Frost, Frances. *The Little Whistler*. Illus. by Roger Duvoisin. McGraw-Hill, 1966. 6-10.
- Frost, Robert. *You Come Too: Favorite Poems for Young Readers*. Illus. by Thomas W. Nason. Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1959. 10 and up.
- Hopkins, Lee Bennett, compiler. *I Think I Saw a Snail: Young Poems for City Seasons*. Illus. by Harold James. Crown, 1969. 4-9.
- Houston, James, compiler. *Songs of the Dream People: Chants and Images from the Indians and Eskimos of North America*. Illus. by compiler. Atheneum, 1972. 9 and up.
- Jordan, June. *Who Look at Me*. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1969. 10 and up.
- Kherdian, David, compiler. *If Dragon Flies Made Honey: Poems*. Illus. by Jose Aruego and Ariane Dewey. Greenwillow Books, 1977. 6-10.
- Kuskin, Karla. *Any Me I Want to Be*. Illus. by author. Harper & Row, 1972. 6-9.
- Kuskin, Karla. *Near the Window Tree: Poems and Notes*. Illus. by author. Harper & Row, 1975. 7-11.
- Larrick, Nancy, compiler. *On City Streets: An Anthology of Poetry*. Illus. by David Sagarin. M. Evans, 1968. 10-13.
- Lewis, Richard, compiler. *Miracles: Poems by Children of the English-Speaking World*. Simon & Schuster, 1966. 7-12.
- Livingston, Myra Cohn. *The Malibu and Other Poems*. Illus. by James Spanfeller. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1972. 10-12.
- Livingston, Myra Cohn. *O Sliver of Liver and Other Poems*. Illus. by Iris Van Rynbach. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1979. 10-13.
- Livingston, Myra Cohn. *Whispers and Other Poems*. Illus. by Jacqueline Chwast. Harcourt, Brace & World, 1958. 4-9.
- McCord, David. *Every Time I Climb a Tree*. Illus. by Marc Simont. Little, Brown, 1967. 5-9.
- McCord, David. *Speak Up: More Rhymes of the Never Was and Always Is*. Illus. by Marc Simont. Little, Brown, 1980. 8 and up.
- Merriam, Eve. *It Doesn't Always Have to Rhyme*. Illus. by Malcolm Spooner. Atheneum, 1964. 10 and up.
- Milne, A. A. *The World of Christopher Robin*. Illus. by E. H. Shepard. E. P. Dutton, 1958. 6 and up.
- Moore, Lilian. *I Feel the Same Way*. Illus. by Robert Quackenbush. Atheneum, 1968. 3-8.
- Ness, Evaline, compiler. *Amelia Mixed the Mustard and Other Poems*. Illus. by author. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1975. 6-10.

- O'Neil, Mary. *Hailstones and Halibut Bones*. Illus. by Leonard Weisgard. Doubleday, 1961. 5-8.
- Richards, Laura. *Tirra Lirra*. Illus. by Marguerite Davis. Little, Brown, 1955. 5-12.
- Riley, James Whitcomb. *The Gobble-Uns'll Git You Ef Ycu Don't Watch Out!* Illus. by Joel Schick. J. B. Lippincott, 1975. 6-12.
- Rojankovsky, Feodor. *The Tall Book of Mother Goose*. Illus. by author. Harper & Row, 1942. 3-6.
- Rossetti, Christina (adapted by Ellen Raskin). *Goblin Market*. Illus. by adapter. E. P. Dutton, 1970. 12 and up.
- Sandburg, Carl. *Early Moon*. Illus. by James Daugherty. Harcourt, Brace & World, 1930. 12 and up.
- Silverstein, Shel. *Where the Sidewalk Ends: Poems and Drawings*. Illus. by author. Harper & Row, 1974. 5-12.
- Starbird, Kaye. *Don't Ever Cross a Crocodile*. Illus. by Kit Dalton. J. B. Lippincott, 1963. 5 and up.
- Tudor, Tasha. *Mother Goose*. Illus. by author. Henry Z. Walck, 1944. 3-7.
- Wildsmith, Brian. *Brian Wildsmith's Mother Goose*. Illus. by author. Franklin Watts, 1965. 3-6.
- Worth, Valerie. *More Small Poems*. Illus. by Natalie Babbitt. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1976. 9 and up.

# Language

## Jokes, Riddles, and Puns

Adler, David A. **The C sick Zebra and Other Animal Riddles.** Illus. by Tomie de Paola. Holiday House, 1983. 8-10.

Sixty animal nonsense riddles and puns that defy commonsense solutions but that have amusing, sometimes hilarious answers are combined with de Paola's line drawings to make this collection great fun. Understanding the play on words will require middle- to upper-grade language development. Children's Choices.

Beisner, Monika. **Monika Beisner's Book of Riddles.** Illus. by author. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1983. All ages.

One hundred and one riddles for children and adults alike to solve, relying on both spelling and double meanings. Hints can be found in detailed illustrations that incorporate the answers. Those who still are stumped can find the answers at the end of the book.

Bishop, Ann. **Hello, Mr. Chips! Computer Jokes and Riddles.** Illus. by Jerry Warshaw. Lodestar Books, 1982. 10 and up.

A collection of original jokes, riddles, and puns involving computers, complete with illustrations, is depicted on computer screens. The reader must be familiar with computer terms to appreciate the humor, although the author does list and define computer terminology at the end of the book. The book employs a stark black, white, and gray format for the text and illustrations. Children's Choices.

Corbett, Scott. **Jokes to Tell Your Worst Enemy.** Illus. by Annie Gushman. E. P. Dutton, 1984. 9-11.

Some of these jokes are actually funny. A plus for this collection is the variety of jokes, including puns, limericks, epitaphs, funny dialogue, and poems.



Craig, M. Jean. **The Man Whose Name Was Not Thomas.** Illus. by Diane Stanley. Doubleday, 1981. All ages.

Children will enjoy "reading" the realistic, full-color, framed illustrations to discover the trade of the main character, what sort of dwelling he will build, and details of his wedding. The tightly structured, smooth text blends well with the illustrations to involve and surprise young readers. (Picture book)

Gounaud, Karen Jo. **A Very Mice Joke Book.** Illus. by Lynn Munsinger. Houghton Mifflin, 1981. 6-8.

A collection of humorous jokes and riddles about mice. Readers will enjoy guessing the answers, most of which are predictable but still amusing. The line drawings are clever in the use of details. Children's Choices.

Juster, Norton. **Otter Nonsense.** Illus. by Eric Carle. Philomel Books, 1982. 5 and up.

Pun lovers of all ages will groan laughingly at this collection of animal puns that range from simple puns to those that require a more sophisticated reader. Scratchy black line drawings of the animals are amusing and will help younger children understand the puns.

Keller, Charles, compiler. **Alexander the Grape: Fruit and Vegetable Jokes.** Illus. by Gregory Filling. Prentice-Hall, 1982. 6-10.

Johann Sebastian Broccoli and Al Caplum join Alexander the Grape in these fruit and vegetable jokes for readers to tell and retell. Amusing line drawings by a sixteen-year-old artist add the extra touch to a book sure to be popular with nine- and ten-year-olds.

Keller, Charles, compiler. **Grime Doesn't Pay: Law and Order Jokes.** Illus. by Jack Kent. Prentice-Hall, 1984. 8-12.

There's enough incongruity in most of these jokes to make them funny to intermediate-grade readers. Also recommended is *What's the Score: Sports Jokes*.

Latta, Richard. **This Little Pig Had a Riddle.** Illus. by Lynn Munsinger. Albert Whitman, 1984. 7-10.

Some riddles in this collection are based on currently popular people and topics and thus will become passé. For the most part, though, this is a collection of riddles with some clever lines and enough appeal to attract readers who like riddles.

Levine, Caroline Anne. **The Silly Kid Joke Book**. Illus. by Giulio Maestro. E. P. Dutton, 1983. 6-9.

Silly kids and silly animals appeal to young children, who will be able to read and understand the humor in these riddles by the end of the first grade. Zany full-color illustrations depict the literal question in the riddle. The format is one riddle per page, with the answer written in italics below the riddle.

Maestro, Giulio. **Riddle Romp**. Illus. by author. Clarion Books, 1983. 7-10.

Humorous illustrations depict riddles and their answers. One riddle is included per page, with the answer at the bottom. The book will provide good vocabulary practice for second and third graders.

Maestro, Giulio. **What's a Frank Frank? Tasty Homograph Riddles**. Illus. by author. Clarion Books, 1984. 9-12.

A clever collection of riddles based on homographs, words that are spelled alike but that have different meanings. Answers and illustrations clarify and extend word meanings. The book is useful as a teacher reference as well as a source of enjoyable reading.

McMillan, Bruce, and Brett McMillan. **Puniddles**. Photographs by Bruce McMillan. Houghton Mifflin, 1982. 6-10.

Puniddles are combination puns and riddles to be deduced through studying pairs of black-and-white photographs. Children will have fun solving each puniddle and may decide to create some of their own. An enjoyable one-time reading experience; once the solutions are known, the game is over.

Phillips, Louis. **How Do You Get a Horse out of the Bathtub: Profound Answers to Preposterous Questions**. Illus. by James Stevenson. Viking Press, 1983. 9 and up.

Eight chapters, each containing a humorous heading, group riddles according to type. Some are familiar riddles, but many are new. The format of the book parodies the suggestions offered by advice columnists. Humorous cartoon sketches are scattered throughout the book.

Phillips, Louis, compiler. **The Upside Down Riddle Book**. Illus. by Beau Gardner. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1982. 4-7.

Brilliant colors encourage children to study the illustrations and guess the riddles. The book is designed to be turned upside down to discover the answer, but many children will be able to see the

answer in the graphic design without turning the book. The riddles are difficult, and the graphics are definitely needed to solve them.

Roop, Peter, and Connie Roop. **Go Hog Wild! Jokes from Down on the Farm.** Illus. by Joan Hanson. Lerner Publications, 1984. 6-8.

Most of these jokes about farming and farm animals are mildly funny, and a few are corny. Early primary readers will possess the concepts needed to recognize the incongruity behind these jokes and to enjoy them. Also recommended is *Out to Lunch! Jokes about Food*.

Schwartz, Alvin. **Unriddling: All Sorts of Riddles to Puzzle Your Guesery.** Illus. by Sue Truesdell. J. B. Lippincott, 1983. 9 and up.

All sorts of riddles are collected from American folklore, many with multiple solutions that have changed over time. The riddles are accompanied by an extensive list of sources and explanations of the origins of the riddles. Scratchy black-and-white cartoon-style illustrations reinforce the sometimes-subtle humor.

Sobol, Donald J. **Encyclopedia Brown's Second Record Book of Weird and Wonderful Facts.** Illus. by Bruce Degen. Yearling Books, 1981.

A humorous collection of trivia. Sports records and experiences of young people are emphasized.

### History of Language

Sarnoff, Jane. **Words?! A Book about the Origins of Everyday Words and Phrases.** Illus. by Reynold Ruffins. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1981. 9-12.

Lively accounts of the origins of words and the changes that words have undergone are interspersed with small drawings that add humor. Children will enjoy learning the source of favorite words and phrases.

### Language Play

Alexander, Sue. **Witch, Goblin, and Ghost's Book of Things to Do.** Illus. by Jeanette Winter. Pantheon Books, 1982. 6-9.

Five activities, including a rebus story, a mystery bag game, a play, a magic trick, and writing in secret code are depicted for young readers in story form. Activities are explained so readers are able

to duplicate them. Illustrated with humorous black-and-white drawings. Not just for Halloween, as the title might seem to indicate.

Espy, Willard R. **A Children's Almanac of Words at Play.** Illus. by Bruce Cayard. Clarkson N. Potter, 1982. 9 and up.

A year of riddles, puns, jokes, nonsense, and language facts—all organized into one volume to be enjoyed day by day or in large chunks. An index of rhetorical devices and categories is provided for those who might use this as a professional resource. Delightful reading.

Greene, Laura, and Eva Barash Dicker. **Sign Language.** Franklin Watts, 1981. 10 and up.

The history of the development of sign language is told in a straightforward, comprehensible fashion. Selected signs and a manual alphabet for finger spelling are included. A good resource for the classroom teacher as well as for interested students.

Nevins, Ann. **Super Stitches: A Book of Superstitions.** Illus. by Dan Nevins. Holiday House, 1983. All ages.

Explains the origins of some familiar superstitions, arranged in such categories as good and bad luck, numbers, expressions, and old wives' tales. Each superstition is illustrated with a humorous ink drawing. The introduction explains what a superstition is, and the index includes key words for locating superstitions.

Terban, Marvin. **In a Pickle and Other Funny Idioms.** Illus. by Giulio Maestro. Clarion Books, 1983. 6-10.

Thirty popular idioms, such as "a chip off the old block," are traced back to their sources. Humorous two-color illustrations show the interpretation of the idiom. A useful reference book.

Weil, Lisl. **Mother Goose Picture Riddles: A Book of Rebuses.** Illus. by author. Holiday House, 1981. 6-10.

This imaginative book presents nursery rhymes as rebuses. Cartoon drawings add to the fun.

## Vocabulary

Hoban, Tana. **I Read Symbols.** Photographs by author. Greenwillow Books, 1983. 5-9.

Hoban uses crisp, full-page color photographs to present some familiar and not-so-familiar symbols that children might encounter. There's no text accompanying these vivid photographs, so the book demands verbal response from its listeners and readers and could serve as a springboard for further discussion. Another book in the series, *I Read Signs*, uses colorful photographs to explore how pictorial symbols and words combine to convey meaning in our culture.

**Macmillan Dictionary for Children.** Macmillan, 1982. 8-13.

A comprehensive dictionary for children that is easy to use and read. It includes several forms of the entry words and, where needed, provides a sentence that uses the word and further defines it. Colorful illustrations depict maps, flags, and U.S. presidents.

### Writing

**Cleary, Beverly. *The Ramona Quimby Diary.*** Illus. by Alan Tiegreen. William Morrow, 1984. 7-11.

This perfect diary for younger children is filled with undated space so a child can write as much or as little as desired, and contains room for drawing, a secret code, excerpts from the Ramona books to stimulate writing, and many illustrations of Ramona in all kinds of situations. It is divided into months, with something special for each month. Children might be motivated to write by the appropriate beginning story and instructions for using the book.

**Goffstein, M. B. *A Writer.*** Illus. by author. Harper & Row, 1984. 10 and up.

Simple, engaging watercolor illustrations and a spare, well-pruned text capture the process of being a writer and creating books that "will spread the seeds of ideas." Metaphorical language may be confusing for younger readers and may require discussion.

**Tchudi, Susan, and Stephen Tchudi. *The Young Writer's Handbook.*** Charles Scribner's Sons, 1987. 10 and up.

A clearly written and organized set of guidelines for writing journals, letters, notes, stories, poems, and school papers.

**Additional Language Books**

- Asimov, Isaac. *Words from History*. Illus. by William Barss. Houghton Mifflin, 1968. 9 and up.
- Bernstein, Joanne E. *Fiddle with a Riddle: Write Your Own Riddles*. Illus. by Giulio Maestro. E. P. Dutton, 1979. 8-12.
- Charlip, Remy, and Mary Beth. *Handtalk: An ABC of Finger Spelling and Sign Language*. Illus. by George Ancona. Parents Magazine Press, 1974. 8 and up.
- Doty, Roy. *King Midas Has a Gilt Complex*. Doubleday, 1979. 8-12.
- Greenfeld, Howard. *Books: From Writer to Reader*. Crown, 1976. 12 and up.
- Greenfeld, Howard. *Summer Is Icumen In: Our Ever-Changing Language*. Crown, 1978. 10 and up.
- Gwynne, Fred. *The King Who Rained*. Illus. by author. Windmill Books, 1970. 5 and up.
- Hazen, Barbara Shok. *Last, First, Middle and Nick: All about Names*. Illus. by Sam Q. Weissman. Prentice-Hall, 1979. 8-12.
- Houghton Mifflin Reference Division Staff, editors. *My First Dictionary*. Houghton Mifflin, 1980. 5-7
- Ogg, Oscar. *Twenty-Six Letters*, 3d ed. Crowell, 1971. 12 and up.
- Rosenbloom, Joseph. *The Gigantic Joke Book*. Illus. by Joyce Behr. Sterling, 1978. 7 and up.
- Sarnoff, Jane, and Reynold Ruffins. *The Code and Cipher Book*. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1975. 9-12.
- Schwartz, Alvin. *Chin Music: Tall Talk and Other Talk*. J. B. Lippincott, 1979. 8-12.
- Weiss, Harvey. *How to Make Your Own Books*. Illus. by author. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1974. 10-14.

# Social Studies

## Careers

Gibbons, Gail. **Fire! Fire!** Illus. by author. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1984. 3-6.

A unique combination of good storytelling and clear explanation of a subject that intrigues young children: fire fighting. Fire fighters fight forest fires, waterfront blazes, a burning barn, and a fire in the city, giving a broader picture of the different aspects of fire fighting. The bright, graphically simple illustrations will appeal to children. Some rules for fire prevention are included. (Picture book)

Horwitz, Joshua. **Doll Hospital.** Photographs by author. Pantheon Books, 1983. All ages.

The text and black-and-white photographs describe a doll hospital in Manhattan that has been in business since 1900. The book conveys much information in smooth, simple sentences. Clear photographs show the repair process for a damaged doll.

Jaspersohn, William. **A Day in the Life of a Television News Reporter.** Little, Brown, 1981. 10-12.

Introduces readers to the many facets of a TV news reporter's job. The role of the news photographer is also described. Although the text sometimes lacks polish, it does combine with good photographs to give a clear presentation.

Kuskin, Karla. **The Philharmonic Gets Dressed.** Illus. by Marc Simont. Harper & Row, 1982. 8 and up.

A humorous but remarkably clear description of the individual preparations that orchestra members must make before they appear together for a concert. The illustrations add detail and reinforce the fact that these fine musicians are also people who have lives offstage, as well. Teachers' Choices. (Picture book)

Paige, David. **A Day in the Life of a Police Detective.** Photographs by Roger Ruhlin. Troll Associates, 1981. 9-12.

The work of a police detective is described in a clear text accompanied by excellent color photographs. Other titles in this series are also consistently well done and include *A Day in the Life of a Marine Biologist* and three books by Ken Witty: *A Day in the Life of an Illustrator*; *A Day in the Life of a Meteorologist*; and *A Day in the Life of a School Basketball Coach*.

Pelta, Kathy. **What Does an Airplane Pilot Do?** Dodd, Mead, 1981. 10 and up.

Text and photographs deal with the many kinds of knowledge a pilot must have in order to fly. Opportunities within the field of aviation are described, and readers are told how to begin the series of steps necessary to obtain a pilot's license. Although some of the content is quite challenging, the style and format are suitable for good elementary school readers.

Ricciuti, Edward R. **They Work with Wildlife: Jobs for People Who Want to Work with Animals.** Harper & Row, 1983. 10 and up.

A straightforward account of the work involved in wildlife management. Readers are introduced to careers in field biology, marine biology, and nature writing. The presentation is challenging and unrelieved by any illustrations, but it is well worth the reading for students seriously interested in careers involving wildlife.

Scarry, Huck. **Life on a Fishing Boat: A Sketch Book.** Illus. by author. Prentice-Hall, 1983. 7-11.

How do the fish get from the sea to the supermarket? The story of the fisherman is told with immediacy and attention to details of interest to children. Pencil sketches clarify explanations and let children see life on the boats almost firsthand.

Schleier, Curt. **The Team behind Your Airline Flight.** Westminster Press, 1981. 10-12.

The use of dialogue and a style more familiar in fiction than nonfiction interferes to some extent with transmitting a clear-cut, detailed account of such travel-related jobs as travel agent, airport security agent, airline captain and crew, and air traffic controller. However, the book is readable and instructive and does include information that will interest elementary-age children.



Wolf, Bernard. **Firehouse**. William Morrow, 1983. 10 and up.

Contrary to what the title suggests, the book is not so much about firehouses as about the functions of people and machines employed to fight fires. The text and photographs provide interesting details about this important work and about the kinds of people (all men in this book) who engage in it.

### Communication

Fisher, Leonard Everett. **The Newspapers**. Illus. by author. Holiday House, 1981. 10 and up.

The development of newspapers during the nineteenth century and their role in transmitting information are related in clear prose without condescension. Scratchboard illustrations are reproduced in rich black, expressing both depth and texture. The book, reliable but not dry, provides some sparks of speculation about motives and risks in the newspaper business. There is considerable information about news carriers, which will be of interest to young readers. All technical and graphic elements meet the highest standards.

Roth, Harold. **First Class! The Postal System in Action**. Photographs by author. Pantheon Books, 1983. 9-12.

A detailed account of the processing of mail from the sender to delivery by the mail carrier, whether rural or urban. Clear photographs complement and clarify the text. The book includes a description of the use of computers in the postal system.

### Diverse Cultures

Adler, David A. **A Picture Book of Israel**. Holiday House, 1984. 7-10.

This introduction to Israel highlights the contrast between ancient and contemporary scenes and shows the variety of people living in Israel today. Photographs depict ruins, monuments, and natural features, as well as city scenes.

Ashabranner, Brent. **Gavriel and Jemal: Two Boys of Jerusalem**. Photographs by Paul Conklin. Dodd, Mead, 1984. 8-12.

The daily life of two boys in the city of Jerusalem—one Jewish and the other Arab—is examined in this well-written book that takes

a look at the cultures and the conflicts facing the people of this war-torn city. The text and photographs manage to probe a difficult, complex issue and to make it accessible to young readers by providing concrete details and a sensitive perspective.

Farley, Carol. **Korea: A Land Divided**. Dillon Press, 1983. 10 and up.

An excellent overview of the people, culture, and history of North and South Korea. Topics are broad, ranging from a brief listing of facts and figures to a recipe for Korean beef patties. The quality of writing and the objective presentation of information make this a book worth reading straight through, and the well-prepared index makes it a useful reference for specific information.

Filstrup, Chris, and Janie Filstrup. **China: From Emperors to Communes**. Dillon Press, 1983. 10-14.

A comprehensive account of China today, including such topics as history, cultural activities, food, daily life, schooling, and government. Color and black-and-white photographs provide additional information. The book includes a glossary and appendix and is an effective research tool.

Nance, John. **Lobo of the Tasaday: A Stone Age Boy Meets the Modern World**. Photographs by author. Pantheon Books, 1982. 9-12.

A photographic account of a Stone Age tribe discovered in 1971 in the Philippines. The clear text and photographs describe daily events in the lives of these people and give some information about the beliefs that influence their way of life. Teachers' Choices.

Perl, Lila. **Guatemala: Central America's Living Past**. William Morrow, 1982. 10-14.

Presents an overview of the history of Guatemala from the Spanish conquest to the present, with emphasis on contemporary life. It is profusely illustrated with clearly identified photographs documenting all aspects of the culture. The text could be more clearly written and organized, with a more detailed index.

Perl, Lila. **Red Star and Green Dragon: Looking at New China**. William Morrow, 1983. 12 and up.

This book views China from a historical perspective; current events are described as they fit in with previous eras. Heavy emphasis is given to the role played by the government. Index, bibliography,

and time-line of important dates in the history of China; black-and-white photographs.

Pfeiffer, Christine. **Poland: Land of Freedom Fighters.** Dillon Press, 1984. 9-12.

A solidly researched, thorough reference book for young readers on the history and culture of Poland. The writing is easy to read, yet it also conveys a sense of the historical and political complexities of the Polish people. An up-to-date reference with color photographs. The glossary, bibliography, list of Polish Consulates, and index add to the usefulness of the text.

Rau, Margaret. **Red Earth, Blue Sky: The Australian Outback.** Thomas Y. Crowell, 1981. 10 and up.

There is a considerable amount of information about remote areas of Australia in this volume, but the focus is really on the lives of children who live on cattle and sheep stations and of aborigine children. The photographs do not always match the quality of the text, but they do add details about daily chores.

Sadler, Catherine Edwards. **Two Chinese Families.** Photographs by Alan Sadler. Atheneum, 1981. 10 and up.

An interesting, straightforward description of the life-style of two Chinese families, with the focus on the activities of children. The accompanying photographs make this a good introduction to post-Cultural Revolution China.

Stone, Erika, and Merle Good. **Nicole Visits an Amish Farm.** Walker, 1982. 8-11.

Nicole, a child from the city, spends part of the summer on an Amish farm. Not only does she learn about Amish traditions, but she also participates in some of the farm chores. Despite a somewhat disjointed organization, the text presents clearly written information about the Amish way of life.

Worth, Richard. **The Third World Today.** Franklin Watts, 1983. 11 and up.

A fairly challenging description of some 130 Third World countries. Many of the factors that have led to the economic and social problems in those countries are discussed. The relationship of the United States to the Third World countries is also explored, though briefly. Included is a booklist for further reading.

**Food, Clothing, and Shelter**

Fagg, Christopher, and Adrian Sington. **How They Built Long Ago.** Warwick Press, 1981. 10 and up.

A challenging but readable description of structures and building in early civilizations ranging from pre-Stone Age to the medieval period. Well illustrated with color pictures and detailed line drawings. Contains a useful glossary.

Gibbons, Gail. **Department Store.** Illus. by author. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1984. 4-7.

A comprehensive look at the world of the department store, covering before the store opens in the morning until employees go home at the end of the day. Cutaway drawings will give young readers a unique perspective of a familiar place. The book contains a brief history of department stores and how they began.

Horwitz, Joshua. **Night Markets: Bringing Food to a City.** Thomas Y. Crowell, 1984. 8-12.

The puzzle of how to feed the huge population of New York City is detailed here in text and photographs. The wholesale markets that supply produce, meat, dairy products, flowers, and bakery goods are shown during the nighttime hours.

Lasky, Kathryn. **The Weaver's Gift.** Photographs by Christopher G. Knight. Frederick Warne, 1981. 11 and up.

The story of weaving, beginning with the birth of a lamb and covering the shearing, dyeing, spinning, and weaving of wool. Photographs and narration go smoothly together. The narrative breaks down with the use of many technical terms to describe the loom and weaving process. This is not a how-to book but an introduction; a glossary of the many technical words would have been helpful.

Robbins, Ken. **Building a House.** Photographs by author. Four Winds Press, 1984. 8-12.

The roles of several individuals including architects, contractors, surveyors, carpenters, electricians, plumbers, and painters show the team effort involved in constructing a house. Though some may find the text dry, numerous black-and-white photographs demonstrate the chronology of the step-by-step process of building a house.

Spier, Peter. **The Food Market.** Illus. by author. Doubleday, 1981. 3-6.

One in a series of board books, each in the shape of the building it describes. Two children visit each place and describe the events and activities. The books do a good job of teaching young children about life in a village as they describe fire-fighting equipment, tools at a service station, fish at a pet store, and toys at a toy shop. Other books in the series are *Bill's Service Station*; *Fire House*; *My School*; and *The Toy Shop*.

Yue, Charlotte. **The Tipi: A Center of Native American Life.** Illus. by David Yue. Alfred A. Knopf, 1984. 9 and up.

A well-designed book with information about the people who lived in tepees, construction of a tepee, various kinds of tepees, and tepee camping on the Great Plains. It stresses the spiritual as well as practical importance of the tepee. Pencil drawings add fine detail to the information in the text.

### Government

Sandak, Cass R. **The White House.** Franklin Watts, 1981. 10 and up.

An overview of the White House, from its construction to the present, but not a comprehensive treatment. A reference list will steer interested readers to other source material.

Weiss, Ann E. **God and Government: The Separation of Church and State.** Houghton Mifflin, 1982. 10-14.

A balanced account of issues of church-state interaction. A brief history of church-state relations is followed by a look at contemporary policies regarding schools, taxes, medical treatment, cults, First Amendment rights, and tolerance. Readers are offered arguments on various sides and then allowed to draw their own conclusions. Bibliography and index.

### Handicapped

Brown, Tricia. **Someone Special, Just Like You.** Illus. by Fran Ortiz. Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1984. 4-6.

The concept of "every child as special" is explored with gentle sensitivity in this book, which could serve as a good springboard

for classroom discussion. Both the simple text and the black-and-white photographs work well in stressing the similarities between handicapped and nonhandicapped children. The book's approach is comfortable and reassuring.

Curtis, Patricia. **Greff: The Story of a Guide Dog.** Photographs by Mary Bloom. Lodestar Books, 1982. 10 and up.

A detailed but not boring look at guide dogs from birth through intensive training to eventual placement with a blind owner. The reader comes to appreciate the importance of these animals as well as the dedicated people involved in training them.

Kuklin, Susan. **Mine for a Year.** Photographs by author. Coward-McCann 1984. 9-12.

As a participant in a 4-H project called Puppy Power, George tells about caring for a young labrador puppy for the first year of life, before the animal is sent to school to become a Seeing Eye dog. Valuable information about training dogs and about the responsibilities of guide dogs adds to the presentation.

Marcus, Rebecca. **Being Blind.** Hastings House, 1981. 9-12.

An interesting and informative book about blindness and the ways that blind people are able to become independent, including the use of Braille writing. The bibliography suggests further reading on the topic. The book is well illustrated with photographs and prints.

Rosenberg, Maxine B. **My Friend Leslie: The Story of a Handicapped Child.** Photographs by George Ancona. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1983. 6-9.

A sensitive portrayal of friendship between two children, one with multiple handicaps. She is described in such a way that the reader recognizes that she is very much like other children despite her physical problems. The photographs form an integral part of the description.

## Religions

Christie-Murray, David. **The Illustrated Children's Bible.** Illus. by Ken Petts, John Berry, Neville Dear, and Norma Burgin. Grosset & Dunlap, 1982. 9-12.

A faithful retelling of key sections of the Old Testament and New Testament. Illustrated with full-color paintings and smaller, detailed drawings of objects and implements indigenous to biblical times.

**Drucker, Malka. *Celebrating Life: Jewish Rites of Passage*.** Illus. by author Holiday House, 1984. 11 and up.

As the title suggests, this is a description of ceremonies important in Jewish life, focusing on birth, puberty, marriage, and death. Appendix, glossary, and index.

**Fisher, Leonard Everett, adapter. *The Seven Days of Creation*.** Illus. by adapter. Holiday House, 1981. 3-10.

An adaptation of the biblical account of creation is illustrated in bright acrylics. Bold brush strokes layer color on color as the world moves from blackness to the golden day of Adam and Eve. Large clear illustrations are easy for young children to appreciate, even at a distance. (Picture book)

**Hirsh, Marilyn. *The Tower of Babel*.** Illus. by author. Holiday House, 1981. 6-9.

Words and pictures combine to produce a simple retelling of the Old Testament story of how people on Earth became different from each other. The detailed black-and-white illustrations are strong and clear. (Picture book)

**Lerner, Carol. *A Biblical Garden*.** Illus. by author. William Morrow, 1982. All ages.

A beautiful book in all ways, especially the design and the reproduction of illustrations. A biblical passage and short narrative is opposite a full-page drawing for each of twenty plants, including the fig, lentil, and olive. A book of lasting value for all ages.

**Metter, Bert. *Bar Mitzvah, Bat Mitzvah: How Jewish Boys and Girls Come of Age*.** Illus. by Marvin Friedman. Clarion Books, 1984. 9 and up.

Jewish children especially will benefit from this interesting, informative, and sincerely written discussion of what will be one of the most memorable days of their lives. The spiritual traditions and responsibilities associated with this rite of passage are presented clearly and accurately. The brown ink illustrations are exceptionally well done and are totally in character with the text.

## **Social Issues and Family Relationships**

Gilbert, Sara. **By Yourself**. Illus. by Heidi Johanna Selig. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1983. 8-10.

A book that discusses feelings, chores, activities, safety, and simple cooking instructions for children of working parents who are on their own for part of the day. The book will help children to understand their situation and to get through this lonely part of the day.

Krementz, Jill. **How It Feels to Be Adopted**. Photographs by author. Alfred A. Knopf, 1982. 9 and up.

Interviews with nineteen children, from age eight to sixteen, who share the common experience of adoption. The interviews focus on how these children feel about being adopted, how they feel about searching for birth parents, and how this issue affects their adoptive parents. The discussion is honest and insightful. Occasionally the interviewees lose their childlike voice and slip into adult-sounding syntax and expression. This is distracting, but not enough to distort the message of these children.

Kyte, Kathy S. **In Charge: A Complete Handbook for Kids with Working Parents**. Illus. by Susan Detrich. Alfred A. Knopf, 1983. 9-12.

A very useful set of guidelines that includes suggestions for organizing a daily schedule to take care of household chores. Easy recipes are given for foods children generally like. The chapter on how to deal with emergencies is valuable.

LeShan, Eda. **Grandparents: A Special Kind of Love**. Illus. by Tricia Taggart. Macmillan, 1984. 8-12.

Written with care and sensitivity, this book explores the unique relationship between grandchildren and grandparents. Advice for dealing with conflicts and problems between generations is simply stated, practical, and compassionate.

McHargue, Georgess. **Meet the Witches**. J. B. Lippincott, 1984. 11 and up.

Despite the fact that this book is part of the Eerie series (which sounds like a delightful exploration of horror stories), it has a more serious focus. With many fascinating details and illustrations, it explores the phenomenon of witchcraft and discusses, with some



touches of humor, the social, political, and religious elements that have influenced it. While some adults might object to the content of this book, it is sure to engage the interest of readers who are interested in the topic.

Meltzer, Milton. **The Terrorists**. Harper & Row, 1983. 11 and up.

A challenging but well-written account of terrorism throughout history. Meltzer examines the tactics and motives of terrorists and the consequences of their acts.

Rosenberg, Maxine B. **Being Adopted**. Photographs by George Ancona. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1984. 7-11.

Several adopted children relate their experiences and share their concerns about being adopted. The text handles pertinent and important issues well, presenting thoughtful reading for all children—adopted or not. Excellent black-and-white photographs enrich the text.

Weiss, Ann E. **The Nuclear Arms Race: Can We Survive It?** Houghton Mifflin, 1983. 11 and up.

An informative and readable, though challenging, discussion of recent developments in the arms race and choices that will have to be made in the future. It provides arguments for and against further development and stockpiling of nuclear arms. Includes a useful glossary of terms.

Weiss, Ann E. **The Nuclear Question**. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1981. 12 and up.

A well-balanced discussion of both the problems and advantages of using nuclear energy as a power source. The text reads well and manages to explain some complex concepts using not-too-technical language. It covers such issues as safety, government regulation, costs, and propaganda offered by both advocates and opponents of nuclear technology. Illustrated with black-and-white photographs.

## Transportation

Gibbons, Gail. **Boat Book**. Illus. by author. Holiday House, 1983. 2-6.

All types of boats are presented in boldly colored, clean-lined drawings: rowboats, canoes, sailboats, speedboats, cruise ships, tugboats, submarines, and tankers. The limited text describes how

boats work and what they do. A good first book for young children who are interested in boats. (Picture book)

Gibbons, Gail. **New Road!** Illus. by author. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1983. 4-7.

Many young children are fascinated by the equipment used to build a new road. The construction is documented in simple language from early surveying until cars and trucks speed past. Diagrams also document the history of road construction and different types of present day roads. Simple illustrations in bright colors represent all phases of road building in this well-designed book.

Ireland, Karin. **Helicopters at Work.** Julian Messner, 1983. 9-12.

Describes many of the uses for helicopters—such as rescuing people, law enforcement, fire fighting, and warfare—and gives some information about their operation.

Nichols, Paul. **Big Paul's School Bus.** Illus. by William Marshall. Prentice-Hall, 1981. 5-8.

This bus-safety book in story form tells of the duties of the bus driver during a day on the job. Two-color drawings add interest and character, but the book would have benefitted from a more unifying design.

Scarry, Huck. **Balloon Trip: A Sketchbook.** Illus. by author. Prentice-Hall, 1983. 8-12.

Hot-air balloons fascinate many people; here are answers to any questions that readers might have. Included are a history of ballooning, diagrams detailing all parts of a balloon and its equipment, a description of how balloons work, and an account of what flying in a balloon is like. Detailed pen-and-ink illustrations give the reader the perspective of a balloonist.

## United States History

Anno, Mitsumasa. **Anno's U.S.A.** Illus. by author. Philomel Books, 1983. All ages.

A traveler arrives at the West Coast of the United States in the present day and journeys eastward geographically and backward in time. Historical and literary figures appear in the full-page, full-color illustrations. The book can be used repeatedly with groups

or read individually. The detailed illustrations need careful studying, and even then it is possible that some of the people and events depicted will be missed by children who lack the background knowledge. *Teachers' Choices*. (Picture book)

Cabral, Olga. **So Proudly She Sailed: Tales of Old Ironsides**. Houghton Mifflin, 1981. 10-14.

Combines some fictional elements with facts in telling the story of the *U.S.S. Constitution* from its launching in 1797 to its final voyage. Clearly written descriptions of officers, sea battles, and unusual voyages are based on the ship's log and other primary documents. Lacks an index or bibliography.

Chambers, Catherine E. **California Gold Rush: Search for Treasure**. Illus. by Allan Eitzen. Troll Associates, 1984. 9-12.

Describes the Gold Rush as experienced by two brothers as they file a claim and work it, hoping to strike it rich. This and other books in the *Adventures in Frontier America* series capture the spirit of pioneer life through dialogue as well as description. Other books in the series include *Daniel Boone and the Wilderness Road*; *Flatboats on the Ohio*; *Texas Roundup*; and *Wagons West*.

Elwood, Ann, Carol Orsag, and Sidney Solomon. **Macmillan Illustrated Almanac for Kids**. Macmillan, 1981. 10-14.

Children love to read almanacs, and this one is filled with information that they will find useful, interesting, and fun. Entries range from "Do's and Don'ts for Parents" to "Taking Care of Pets" to "Laws about Family Matters." The table of contents and index make the information easy to locate.

Fisher, Leonard Everett. **The Schools**. Illus. by author. Holiday House, 1983. 10 and up.

As part of the *Nineteenth Century America* series, this text is a thoroughly researched history of American schools during that time period. The prose is straightforward and clearly written, though sometimes a bit dry. Still, this is a good reference book for sophisticated readers. The scratchboard illustrations are striking.

Fisher, Leonard Everett. **The Unions**. Illus. by author. Holiday House, 1982. 10 and up.

Traces the growth and development of the labor movement during the nineteenth century in an accurate and nonjudgmental manner.

Well-organized, clear writing; functional index. Scratchboard illustrations depict the people and events associated with the rise of unions in the United States.

Freedman, Russell. **Children of the Wild West.** Clarion Books, 1983. 8-14.

A realistic look at the hardships and adventures of children, both immigrant and Native American, in the nineteenth-century American West. Smooth writing blends with well-chosen photographs authenticating a wealth of information on schools and homes, on work and play. There is a brief mention of the roles played by black children and Mexican children. Index. Teachers' Choices.

Knight, James E. **Boston: Tea Party: Rebellion in the Colonies.** Illus. by David Wenzel. Tull Associates, 1982. 9-12.

A Boston merchant describes the American colonists dumping tea into Boston harbor to protest British taxation without representation. This is one in a collection of ten books in the Adventures in Colonial America series. Each book details some aspect of Colonial America using a narration by a central character. The books read easily, with a good blending of factual details woven into the fictionalized style. Detailed black-and-white illustrations accurately depict scenes, events, people, and artifacts of the time period. Other books in the series include *Blue Feather's Vision: The Dawn of Colonial America*; *Journey to Monticello: Traveling in Colonial Times*; *Sailing to America: Colonists at Sea*; and *Salem Days: Life in a Colonial Seaport*.

Loeper, John J. **The House on Spruce Street.** Illus. by author. Atheneum, 1982. 9-13.

The history of a Philadelphia house from 1772 to today gives the reader an interesting perspective on U.S. history. As the house is transformed over time to a pharmacy and finally a warehouse, the decline of the inner city is documented. The book ends on a positive note, with the house restored to its original appearance. A map and line drawings of the architectural changes of the house accompany and edify the text.

Macaulay, David. **Mill.** Illus. by author. Houghton Mifflin, 1983. 9-14.

Through the description of the imaginary mill in Wicksbridge, the reader gleans much information about life in nineteenth-century New England mill towns. The transition of the mill from water-

power to electricity to closing to condominium development is a typical pattern. The book also gives insights into the problems of labor and management, not only through the text but also through diary excerpts that make the story come alive. Profusely illustrated with black-and-white drawings and diagrams.

McGaw, Jessie Brewer. **Chief Red Horse Tells about Custer.** Lodestar Books, 1981. 8-12.

This is the story of Custer's defeat told by Chief Red Horse, who participated in the battle. The sign-language account is reproduced here as it was taken down by an Army surgeon.

Sandak, Cass R. **Museums: What They Are and How They Work.** Franklin Watts, 1981. 10 and up.

A fairly sophisticated but informative introduction to many kinds of museums, the nature of their collections, and the ways visitors may respond to materials in the collections. It includes science, history, natural history, art, and children's museums as well as planetariums.

Siegel, Beatrice. **Fur Trappers and Traders: The Indians, the Pilgrims, and the Beaver.** Illus. by William Sauts Bock. Walker, 1981. 8-11.

This concise, well-documented history of beaver trapping in America is liberally illustrated with realistic line drawings of artifacts and encounters between Indians and Europeans. Solid organization, notes, a bibliography, and index add to its value.

Sullivan, George. **Return of the Battleship.** Dodd, Mead, 1983. 10 and up.

The role of a battleship is described through accounts of battleships used from 1895 to the present. Although they were retired following World War II, battleships were reactivated for duty off Vietnam in the late 1960s and 1970s and in the Mideast in the 1980s, as they continue to play a limited role in the modern navy.

Wheeler, M. J. **First Came the Indians.** Illus. by James Houston. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1983. 9 and up.

Contains brief descriptions of six North American Indian tribes: Creek, Iroquois, Ojibwa, Makah, Sioux, and Hopi. The beliefs, shelter rituals, and other aspects of Indian life are detailed in a text that has the form and rhythm of poetry. Brown, black, and

white pencil illustrations showing the activities described are scattered across the pages.

## World History

Aliki. **A Medieval Feast.** Illus. by author. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1983. 8-11.

Brilliant colors and detailed drawings bring to life the exotic feast that a medieval lord created for the king and his company. It presents such fascinating details as the description of a Cockentrice, which will stimulate young imaginations and which offers an understanding of how people worked, looked, and thought a world ago.

Anderson, Madelyn Klein. **Greenland: Island at the Top of the World.** Dodd, Mead, 1983. 10 and up.

A detailed account of settlements in Greenland from Viking times to the present. Greenland's continuing role in international defense is described. Well illustrated with photographs and maps. Bibliography.

Burns, Geoff (edited by Henry Pluckrose). **Take a Trip to New Zealand.** Franklin Watts, 1983. 7-10.

"An excellent account of New Zealand and those who live there," according to a New Zealander who recently moved to the United States. The content and large print are designed for young readers, but the book will also be useful to older children as a reference tool. Index; color photographs.

Goodall, John S. **Above and below Stairs.** Illus. by author. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1983. 10 and up.

Depicts in illustrations only the lives of master and servant from the Middle Ages through the reign of King Edward VII of England. For an older audience than most Goodall books. (Picture book)

Hauptly, Denis J. **The Journey from the Past: A History of the Western World.** Atheneum, 1983. 11-15.

An interesting and well-written general history of Western civilization for the middle school child. The narrative is easy to read

and filled with stories of people from each age, starting with the emergence of the first true humans in East Africa. The chapters are short enough and move fast enough to keep students interested. The book provides an overview only and recommends more detailed works on each epoch of history.

Marrin, Albert. **Overlord: D-Day and the Invasion of Europe.** Atheneum, 1982. 12 and up.

A description of the events occurring prior to, during, and after the Allied invasion of Europe in 1944. The narrative moves quickly and is written for more mature readers. Liberally illustrated with photographs.

Maruki, Toshi. **Hiroshima No Pika.** Illus. by author. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1982. 9-12.

The text and pictures give a vivid description of the bombing of Hiroshima in 1945 and the effect on Mii's family and others caught in the blast. Teachers' Choices.

Millard, Anne. **Ancient Civilizations.** Warwick Press, 1983. 10 and up.

Organized according to river civilizations, sea kings, and trading empires, the text describes civilizations from about 3500 B.C. to 500 A.D. A time chart shows concomitant development in the Middle East, Asia, Europe, and the Americas during this period. Illustrated with drawings and photographs.

Pringle, Laurence. **"The Earth Is Flat"—And Other Great Mistakes.** Illus. by Steve Miller. William Morrow, 1983. 9 and up.

A fact-filled book of human foibles and miscalculations, some small, some major. Diverse information is organized by major categories that serve as chapter titles. Index.

Rahn, Joan Elma. **Plants That Changed History.** Illus. by author. Atheneum, 1982. 10-15.

A fascinating view of the history of humankind based on the effects that plants have on people's lives. Five stories are told as specific examples of how new plants or plant products have influenced the course of civilization, ranging from "Cereals and the Rise of Civilization" to "The Coal Forests and the Industrial Revolution." The book could stimulate some animated discussions and creative thinking.

Ross, Frank, Jr. **Oracle Bones, Stars, and Wheelbarrows: Ancient Chinese Science and Technology.** Illus. by Michael Goodman. Houghton Mifflin, 1982. 12 and up.

A careful account of Chinese contributions to science, with particular emphasis given to medicine, astronomy, engineering, and such technological advances as paper and printing, gunpowder, and the compass. Uncluttered illustrations clarify concepts and processes not readily accessible to today's readers. Includes a chronology of major dynasties, a bibliography, and an index.

Sancha, Sheila. **The Luttrell Village: Country Life in the Middle Ages.** Illus. by author. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1982. 11 and up.

A description of life in a fourteenth-century English village, based on pictures from the Luttrell Psalter. Although the book is made difficult by the introduction of a considerable amount of information in a small number of pages, the detailed, captioned illustrations help to clarify ideas. The format leads to excellent opportunities for vocabulary development and study of English word origin. Introduction and glossary.

Sobol, Donald J. **Encyclopedia Brown's Book of Wacky Spies.** Illus. by Ted Enik. William Morrow, 1984. 8-14.

A funny look at the world of espionage; a compendium of stories about successful spies, unsuccessful spies, women spies, and so forth, mainly during wartimes. Although the stories are authentic, no list of sources is included. Illustrated with cartoon-style drawings that are lively and that enhance the wackiness of the vignettes.

Ventura, Piero. **Man and the Horse.** Illus. by author. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1982. 8-14.

A concise outline of history told through the relationship of humans and horses from prehistoric times to the present. Though the text is both interesting and thought provoking, the power of the book lies in its diminutive line drawings, which give the reader a panoramic view of life during the times depicted. The full-page illustrations of people and horses are intricately detailed and enlightening.

#### Additional Social Studies Books

Aliki. *Mummies Made in Egypt.* Illus. by author. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1979. 8-12.



- Asimov, Isaac. *Animals of the Bible*. Illus. by Howard Berelson. Doubleday, 1978. 7-10.
- Baumann, Hans. *The Caves of the Great Hunters*, rev. ed. Pantheon Books, 1962. 10-14.
- Baylor, Byrd. *When Clay Sings*. Illus. by Tom Bahti. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1972. 6-12.
- Denny, Norman, and Josephine Filmer-Sankey. *The Bayeux Tapestry: The Story of the Norman Conquest, 1066*. Atheneum, 1966. 10-14.
- de Paola, Tomie. *The Lady of Guadalupe*. Illus. by author. Holiday House, 1980. 6-9. (Available in Spanish under the title *Nuestra señora de Guadalupe*.)
- de Paola, Tomie. *The Popcorn Book*. Illus. by author. Holiday House, 1978. 6-9.
- Feelings, Tom. *Black Pilgrimage*. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1972. 9-14.
- Fisher, Leonard Everett. *The Factories*. Illus. by author. Holiday House, 1979. 9-11.
- Fisher, Leonard Everett. *The Railroads*. Illus. by author. Holiday House, 1979. 9-11.
- Foster, Genevieve. *Abraham Lincoln's World*. Illus. by author. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1944. 10 and up.
- Foster, Genevieve. *George Washington's World*. Illus. by author. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1941. 10 and up.
- Freedman, Russell. *Immigrant Kids*. E. P. Dutton, 1980. 8-12.
- Huntington, Lee Pennock. *Simple Shelters*. Illus. by Stefan Bernath. Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1979. 8-12.
- Lawson, Robert. *They Were Strong and Good*. Illus. by author. Viking Press, 1940. 8 and up.
- Lester, Julius. *To Be a Slave*. Illus. by Tom Feelings. Dial Press, 1968. 12 and up.
- Musgrove, Margaret. *Ashanti to Zulu: African Traditions*. Illus. by Diane and Leo Dillon. Dial Press, 1976. All ages.
- Sobol, Harriet Langsam. *My Other-Mother, My Other-Father*. Photographs by Patricia Agre. Macmillan, 1979. 8-12.
- Spier, Peter. *People*. Illus. by author. Doubleday, 1980. All ages.

# Biography

## Artists and Writers

Lepscky, Ibi (translated by Ruth Parlé Craig). **Amadeus Mozart**. Illus. by Paolo Cardoni. Barron's Educational Series, 1982. 6-10.

When little Amadeus copied perfectly his older sister's piano performance, his music career began—even before he started school. A simple story that shows his boyishness along with the superb talent that never went to his head. Humor and personality are warmly depicted in carefully composed, stylized illustrations.

O'Kelley, Mattie Lou. **From the Hills of Georgia: An Autobiography in Paintings**. Illus. by author. Atlantic Monthly Press Books, 1983. 6 and up.

This book answers in paintings and simple text the child's question "What was life like in the old days?" Play, celebrations, work, and household chores are depicted in the brightly colored folk paintings. Oral history and storytelling at its finest. (Picture book)

Provensen, Alice, and Martin Provensen. **Leonardo da Vinci**. Illus. by authors. Viking Press, 1984. 7 and up.

A biography of "the artist, inventor, scientist in three-dimensional, movable pictures" that makes da Vinci's art and inventions spring to life. An extraordinary, inventive pop-up book; illustrations in full-color capture Florence in 1492 with its great buildings, marble statues, and well-dressed citizens. Older readers will enjoy the wry twist of the ending.

Yates, Elizabeth. **My Diary—My World**. Westminster Press, 1981. 11 and up.

An autobiography in diary form that does not pretend to be a novel; it shows the process of growing up as recorded by writer Yates in her diaries from age twelve to twenty. It rings true with enough distance in time to give the reader a clear view of Yates's

early years. Readers will especially enjoy the insights about the persistence of a young person who wants to be a writer. Reflections on the next ten years in Yates's life are found in *My Widening World: The Continuing Diary of Elizabeth Yates*.

### Athletes

Burchard, Marshall. **Sports Hero: Larry Bird**. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1982. 8-12.

A biographical account of Larry Bird's successes as a professional basketball player. The text is easy to read and has a smooth style; quotations from Bird and others make the text flow. Large print; captioned photographs.

Burchard, Marshall. **Sports Hero: Ron Guidry**. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1981. 9-12.

Relates the baseball career of Ron Guidry, star pitcher. The large print and matter-of-fact style of the text appear to place the book in a high-interest/easy-reading category. The details about games might make the book drag for some readers, but not for the avid baseball fan. Photographs.

Scioscia, Mary. **Bicycle Rider**. Illus. by Ed Young. Harper & Row, 1983. 7-11.

Young Marshall Taylor had no idea that stunt riding in front of a bicycle shop would lead to his being the first black athlete to compete in national bike races. Smooth writing and dialogue introduce the short boy from a large family as he tries to find something he can do well. Soft pencil sketches convey the turn-of-the-century setting.

### Entertainers

Kamen, Gloria. **Charlie Chaplin**. Illus. by author. Atheneum, 1982. 8-12.

An account of incidents in the often-sad, sometimes-happy personal and professional life of the Little Tramp, best known for his silent movies. Clear writing for younger audiences is accompanied by pencil vignettes that bring alive early filmmaking techniques. The book includes a bibliography and a list of Chaplin's films.

Terkel, Studs (with Milly Hawk Daniel). **Giants of Jazz**, rev. ed. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1984. 12 and up.

Short biographies of thirteen jazz greats will be of special interest to music lovers and, in many cases, to general readers who are fans of rags-to-riches stories. Louis Armstrong, Billie Holiday, Benny Goodman, and Duke Ellington are included. The book is illustrated with many black-and-white photographs and ends with a discography of classic albums.

Woods, Harold, and Geraldine Woods. **Bill Cosby: Making America Laugh and Learn**. Dillon Press, 1983. 9 and up.

The strength of this book is its focus on Bill Cosby as a person who overcame a good many setbacks to become a success not only in the entertainment world, but also in his commitment to education. Photographs.

### Explorers

De Pauw, Linda Grant. **Seafaring Women**. Houghton Mifflin, 1982. 12 and up.

An absorbing account of women at sea as warriors and whalers, traders and seagoing housewives, and privateers and present-day adventurers. These fast-paced adventures introduce women mariners from the twelfth century to the present. Bibliography and index.

Hoobler, Dorothy, and Thomas Hoobler. **The Voyages of Captain Cook**. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1983. 12 and up.

This clearly written, fascinating account of the voyage that Captain James Cook made from 1768–1780 makes use of portions of Cook's journals and the writings of his crew and passengers. It presents a balanced view of Cook that will stimulate further research into his life and into eighteenth-century navigation and history. Index and brief bibliography.

Weil, Lisl. I, **Christopher Columbus**. Illus. by author. Atheneum, 1983. 7–10.

The first-person narrative technique makes this story immediate and personal for young readers. Black-and-white pen drawings are filled with detail and are often humorous. There is an interesting

sequential panel titled "The Seven Years of Waiting of Christopher Columbus" that shows increasingly complex drawings and maps.

### Humanitarians

Bawden, Nina. **St. Francis of Assisi.** Illus. by Pascale Allamand. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1983. 6-9.

Bawden and Allamand, who first collaborated on the highly praised book *William Tell*, have produced another fine picture book. Bawden uses elegantly simple prose to relate dramatic tales from the life of this fascinating saint. The vignettes trace St. Francis's conversion from a rich, carefree youth to a religious leader whose life of poverty celebrated the richness of nature and simplicity. The powerful illustrations use vibrant colors and a primitive style of art to reinforce the dramatic context of St. Francis's non-conformist life-style. (Picture book)

de Paola, Tomie. **Francis: The Poor Man of Assisi.** Illus. by author. Holiday House, 1982. 8 and up.

A beautifully designed and carefully researched picture book on the life of St. Francis of Assisi. Short episodes, in chronological order, tell the fascinating story of Francis, who gave up a life of wealth to celebrate his belief in God and nature. The text flows with a simple grace and reads well aloud. The framed illustrations are rich explorations of color and line. (Picture book)

DiFranco, Anthony. **Pope John Paul II: Bringing Love to a Troubled World.** Dillon Press, 1983. 10 and up.

Although some information about the early years of Pope John Paul is included, this biography emphasizes the adult life of the Pope from his courageous action during World War II through his rise to Bishop of Poland, to Cardinal and, finally, to Pope.

Jacobs, William Jay. **Eleanor Roosevelt: A Life of Happiness and Tears.** Coward-McCann, 1983. 10-14.

An inspirational story of a determined woman who was a dedicated humanitarian. The many humorous anecdotes are contrasted to the sad times in Roosevelt's life, creating a complex, multifaceted character with whom readers will empathize. Illustrated with many family photographs.

Roosevelt, Elliott. **Eleanor Roosevelt, with Love: A Centenary Remembrance.** Lodestar Books, 1984. 10 and up.

A personalized story of Eleanor Roosevelt told by her son with a great deal of admiration. The emphasis is on all the positive aspects of her life, though the tragic events are at least mentioned. Family stories and other information that only a son would know make this an account worth reading. Photographs.

Vinke, Hermann (translated by Hedwig Pachter). **The Short Life of Sophie Scholl**. Harper & Row, 1984. 12 and up.

A poignant yet exhilarating story of a young German student from a family of "independent thinkers" who was eventually executed for her involvement in an anti-Nazi society called the White Rose. The drama and pathos at the end of her life is accentuated by the many vignettes of her normal childhood and her gentle nature. Excerpts from her diary and letters, as well as interviews with family members and friends, provide a well-rounded portrait of a true heroine of her times. Insight into the conscience of the German citizens is also gained by reading this compelling book. Teachers' Choices.

### Political Leaders

Adler, David A. **Our Golda: The Story of Golda Meir**. Illus. by Donna Ruff. Viking Press, 1984. 7-11.

In response to a question posed at the beginning of the book—"Where did Golda get that strength?"—the information and anecdotes that follow provide an interesting answer for readers. Pencil illustrations highlight the places and people that were important to Meir.

Brooks, Polly Schoyer. **Queen Eleanor: Independent Spirit of the Medieval World: A Biography of Eleanor of Aquitaine**. J. B. Lippincott, 1983. 11 and up.

A lively account of the life of one of the most fascinating women in history, Eleanor of Aquitaine, Queen of France and later of England. Her impact on twelfth-century society is made evident by the changes described. Her longevity and courage gave her an integral role in many historic events. The book should be of interest to fans of this time period or to those wanting to know more about this spirited woman. Teachers' Choices.

Davidson, Margaret. **The Golda Meir Story**, rev. ed. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1981. 10 and up.

This revision of a 1976 title includes several new chapters that cover the last years of Meir's life. The book reveals much about Meir and the deeds that won her a place in history.

Kamen, Gloria. **Fiorello: His Honor, the Little Flower.** Illus. by author. Atheneum, 1981. 7-10.

Fiorello La Guardia, the mayor of New York City for twelve years, began as a flamboyant lawyer who admired Napoleon, but he is best remembered for his interest in immigrants and in children. During a newspaper strike, he read comics on the radio so children would not miss one episode. Clear writing and humorous sketches will appeal to young readers. Bibliography.

### Scientists

Lepsky, Ibi (translated by Ruth Parlé Craig). **Albert Einstein.** Illus. by Paolo Cardoni. Barron's Educational Series, 1982. 6-10.

Young Einstein didn't do very well in school or get along well with other children; he did, however, play the violin well and enjoy watching ants with his sister. Pastel scenes reveal Einstein's loving family as they began to recognize his special talents.

Quackenbush, Robert. **The Beagle and Mr. Flycatcher: A Story of Charles Darwin.** Illus. by author. Prentice-Hall, 1983. 7-9.

This biography of Darwin focuses on his five-year voyage on the *H.M.S. Beagle*, a voyage that settled his profession as a natural biologist and provided the foundation for his theory of evolution. Illustrations add touches of humor to Darwin's struggles, and endpapers provide maps of the voyage.

Quackenbush, Robert. **Watt Got You Started, Mr. Fulton? A Story of James Watt and Robert Fulton.** Illus. by author. Prentice-Hall, 1982. 6-10.

A dual biography of James Watt, who invented the first practical steam engine, and Robert Fulton, who introduced the steam engine into the realm of water-going transportation. Blue-toned illustrations are humorous as they add technical information and a sense of the times in which the two inventors lived.

Sabin, Louis. **Thomas Alva Edison: Young Inventor.** Illus. by George Ulrich. Troll Associates, 1983. 9-12.

Episodes in the life of a curious child who grew up to become an

inventor make this an interesting, understandable biography. There is no documentation for the dialogue, but there is a minimum of conversation attributed to Edison. The account will provide a good introduction to Edison's life.

**Santrey, Laurence. *Young Frederick Douglass: Fight for Freedom*. Illus. by Bert Dodson. Troll Associates, 1983. 9-12.**

An account of Douglass's life that will acquaint readers with the childhood experiences that helped to shape the life of this slave who became a great abolitionist, journalist, and statesman. There is no documentation for comments supposedly uttered by Douglass. The text is accompanied by well-designed, black-and-white illustrations.

**Shachtman, Tom. *Ralph T. Heath, Jr.: The Birdman of St. Petersburg*. Macmillan, 1982. 10 and up.**

A very readable text gives information about Heath's Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary, which provides refuge for over 5,000 birds a year. Descriptions of such endangered species as the brown pelican and the great egret add to the overall value of the book. Unfortunately, the quality of the photographs does not match that of the text.

**Westman, Paul. *Andrew Young: Champion of the Poor*. Dillon Press, 1983. 10 and up.**

An account of Andrew Young's life, including his childhood, his leadership in civil and human rights movements, his serving as United Nations ambassador, and his election as mayor of Atlanta. It gives some insight into Young's personal qualities that have sustained him through periods of difficulty. Unfortunately, neither the writing style nor the quality of photographs is particularly strong.

## Others

**Fritz, Jean. *The Double Life of Pocahontas*. Illus. by Ed Young. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1983. 9-12.**

A fascinating portrait of Pocahontas, the young Indian woman whose role as intermediary between two cultures has been frequently celebrated in history books. This biography, written with Fritz's keen eye for anecdotes that make historical figures "come alive," explores the facts that are known about Pocahontas's life



and places them in a context rich with details. Fritz also takes care to differentiate what is known from what is either probable or just possible. The result is a book that is refreshingly honest and that should be intriguing to young minds. *Teachers' Choices*.

Gunning, Thomas G. **Amazing Escapes**. Dodd, Mead, 1984. 10 and up.

Gripping accounts of nine amazing getaways. Photographs that accompany the text are somewhat uneven in quality but generally serve to add details and suspense.

Kherdian, David. **Root River Run**. Illus. by Nonny Hogrogian. Carolrhoda Books, 1984. 10 and up.

The problems of a first-generation American child are chronicled here in such a way that the warmth of family ties shows through. Some of the universals of childhood are here, too, showing young readers how many experiences of childhood cut across national lines.

Lasker, Joe. **The Great Alexander the Great**. Illus. by author. Viking Press, 1983. 8-12.

Important and interesting episodes of Alexander's life are told with emphasis on their historical impact. The somewhat fictionalized storytelling will make this a story that children will enjoy rereading. Alexander's story is enhanced by the clash of armies, by the grandeur of the locations, and by the personality of Alexander himself as depicted in the detailed full-color paintings.

Provensen, Alice, and Martin Provensen. **The Glorious Flight across the Channel with Louis Blériot, July 25, 1909**. Illus. by authors. Viking Kestrel, 1983. 5-9.

The historic story of a daring aviator who was the first to fly across the English Channel builds progressively to the climactic flight. It gives the reader a true impression of the dangers of early aviation and of the determination of early aviators. Children will especially enjoy the illustrations of the many planes. Sepia-colored illustrations are splashed with rich color but are still reminiscent of old photographs. Caldecott Medal Book. (Picture book)

## Additional Biographies

- Adoff, Arnold. *Malcolm X*. Illus. by John Wilson. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1970. 6-10.
- Aliki. *The Story of William Penn*. Prentice-Hall, 1964. 5-9.
- Braymer, Marjorie. *The Walls of Windy Troy: A Biography of Heinrich Schliemann*. Harcourt, Brace & World, 1960. 11 and up.
- Bulla, Clyde Robert. *Pocahontas and the Strangers*. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1971. 8-12.
- Chukovsky, Kornei (translated by Beatrice Stillman). *The Silver Crest: My Russian Boyhood*. Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1976. 11 and up.
- Commager, Henry Steele. *America's Robert E. Lee*. Illus. by Lynd Ward. Houghton Mifflin, 1951. 10-14.
- Cone, Molly. *The Ringling Brothers*. Illus. by James and Ruth M. Crea. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1971. 7-9.
- Dalgliesh, Alice. *The Columbus Story*. Illus. by Leo Politi. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1955. 6-9.
- Daugherty, James H. *Daniel Boone*. Illus. by author. Viking Press, 1939. 11-15.
- D'Aulaire, Ingri, and Edgar P. D'Aulaire. *Abraham Lincoln*, rev. ed. Illus. by authors. Doubleday, 1957. 8-11.
- Davis, Russell, and Brent Ashabraner. *Chief Joseph: War Chief of the Nez Percé*. McGraw-Hill, 1962. 11-14.
- De Trevino, Elizabeth Borton. *I, Juan de Pareja*. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1965. 12 and up.
- Douglass, Frederick (edited by Barbara Ritchie). *Life and Times of Frederick Douglass*. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1966. 12 and up.
- Fisher, Aileen, and Olive Rabe. *We Alcotts*. Illus. by Ellen Raskin. Atheneum, 1968. 11 and up.
- Forbes, Esther. *America's Paul Revere*. Illus. by Lynd Ward. Houghton Mifflin, 1946. 10-14.
- Franchere, Ruth. *Cesar Chavez*. Illus. by Earl Thollander. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1970. 8-14.
- Fritz, Jean. *What's the Big Idea, Ben Franklin?* Illus. by Margot Tomes. Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1976. 6-10.
- Greenfield, Eloise. *Rosa Parks*. Illus. by Eric Marlow. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1973. 8-12.
- Gurko, Miriam. *Clarence Darrow*. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1965. 11-14.
- Haskins, James. *Fighting Shirley Chisholm*. Dial Press, 1975. 12 and up.

- Holbrook, Stewart. *America's Ethan Allen*. Illus. by Lynd Ward. Houghton Mifflin, 1954. 10 and up.
- Judson, Clara Ingram. *Benjamin Franklin*. Illus. by Robert Fränkenberg. Follett, 1957. 12 and up.
- Kroeber, Theodora. *Ishi: Last of His Tribe*. Illus. by Ruth Robbins. Parnassus Press, 1964. 10 and up.
- Latham, Jean Lee. *Carry On, Mr. Bowditch*. Illus. by John O. Cosgrove. Houghton Mifflin, 1955. 12 and up.
- Lawrence, Jacob. *Harriet and the Promised Land*. Simon & Schuster, 1968. 6-10.
- McNeer, May. *America's Abraham Lincoln*. Illus. by Lynd Ward. Houghton Mifflin, 1957. 10 and up.
- Meigs, Cornelia. *Invincible Louisa*. Little, Brown, 1933. 10-14.
- Meltzer, Milton. *Langston Hughes: A Biography*. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1968. 12 and up.
- Monjo, F. N. *Grand Papa an Ellen Aroon*. Illus. by Richard Cuffari. Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1974. 9-12.
- Moore, Carman (edited by Milton Meltzer). *Somebody's Angel Child: The Story of Bessie Smith*. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1970. 10 and up.
- North, Sterling. *Young Thomas Edison*. Houghton Mifflin, 1958. 10-14.
- Petry, Ann. *Harriet Tubman: Conductor on the Underground Railroad*. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1955. 12-15.
- Rollins, Charlamae Hill. *They Showed the Way: Forty American Negro Leaders*. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1964. 9-12.
- Sandburg, Carl. *Abe Lincoln Grows Up*. Illus. by James Daugherty. Harcourt, Brace & World, 1940. 11-15.
- Sterling, Dorothy. *Captain of the Planter: The Story of Robert Smalls*. Illus. by Ernest Cricklow. Doubleday, 1958. 8-12.
- Symc, Ronald. *Geronimo: The Fighting Apache*. Illus. by Ben F. Stahl. William Morrow, 1975. 8-12.
- Symc, Ronald. *Nigerian Pioneer: The Story of Mary Slessor*. Illus. by Jacqueline Tomes. William Morrow, 1964. 10-14.
- Terry, Walter. *Frontiers of Dance: The Life of Martha Graham*. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1970. 8-11.
- Tobias, Tobi. *Maria Tallchief*. Illus. by Michael Hapshire. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1970. 8-11.
- Turk, Midge. *Gordon Parks*. Illus. by Herbert Danska. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1971. 6-10.
- Vining, Elizabeth Gray. *Penn.* Illus. by George Gillett Whitney. Viking Press, 1938. 10-14.

- Vipont, Elfrida. *Weaver of Dreams: The Girlhood of Charlotte Brontë*. Illus. by author. Henry Z. Walck, 1966. 12-14.
- Wibberley, Leonard. *Man of Liberty: A Life of Thomas Jefferson*, rev. ed. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1968. 12 and up.
- Wood, James Playsted. *The Life and Words of John F. Kennedy*. Doubleday, 1964. 9-12.
- Yates, Elizabeth. *Amos Fortune: Free Man*. Illus. by Nora S. Urwin. E. P. Dutton, 1950. 9-12.

# Sciences

## Aeronautics and Space

Berger, Melvin. **Space Shots, Shuttles and Satellites.** G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1984. 10 and up.

A history of space travel from the first Sputnik launches to space shuttles and satellites used for communication, scientific, weather, and military purposes. Photographs; index and glossary.

Coombs, Charles. **Hut-Air Ballooning.** William Morrow, 1981. 12 and up.

The text and photographs provide much information about ballooning, from its beginnings to the construction and manipulation of a balloon. The text is fairly dense, providing a challenge to good readers.

Dolan, Edward F., Jr. **Great Mysteries of the Air.** Dodd, Mead, 1983. 9-12.

A collection of stories of mysterious happenings in aviation, including planes that disappeared, unexplained plane crashes, and the appearances of strange planes and strange people aboard airplanes. There are no answers to these mysteries, but they are interesting, nevertheless.

McGowen, Tom. **Album of Spaceflight.** Illus. by Lee Brubaker. Rand McNally, 1983. 9 and up.

This understandable history of spaceflight, traced in a problem-solving approach, will engage the interest of the young mind. Contributions of both the United States and Soviet Union are told in narrative style. Illustrations lend dramatic effect. The book projects an interesting future of power plants in space and people living on space stations.

O'Connor, Karen. **Sally Ride and the New Astronauts: Scientists in Space.** Franklin Watts, 1983. 8 and up.

A personable introduction to Sally Ride: engineer, astrophysicist, student, first U.S. woman in space. It presents an enlightened portrayal of astronauts of the future. No longer exclusive to pilots, opportunities in space now belong to scientists, specialists, technicians, and private citizens. Photographs; index.

Zisfein, Melvin B. **Flight: A Panorama of Aviation.** Illus. by Robert Andrew Parker. Pantheon Books, 1981. 9 and up.

Chronicles aviation history from the earliest attempts at flying to modern jet aircraft. This oversized book is lavishly illustrated and includes an index and bibliography for further reading. A useful reference book.

## The Animal Kingdom

### *Animal Behaviors*

Black, Hallie. **Animal Cooperation: A Look at Sociobiology.** Illus. by Deborah Roach. William Morrow, 1981. 10 and up.

Explains what sociobiologists study to answer the question of whether social cooperation among animals is a learned or inherited behavior. While the organization of the book could be tighter, the concerns of sociobiology and the controversy surrounding the field are clearly presented, and the descriptions of specific animal behaviors are fascinating. An excellent index and bibliography make this especially useful to young researchers.

Freedman, Russell. **Animal Superstars.** Prentice-Hall, 1981. 10 and up.

This book focuses on unusual abilities—such as speed, strength, size, longevity, and appetite—that will interest children who like to remember unusual details. The clearly organized charts and a comprehensive bibliography are good additions.

Freedman, Russell. **When Winter Comes.** Illus. by Pamela Johnson. E. P. Dutton, 1981. 5–9.

Describes how various animals prepare for winter. Soft pencil drawings with exact details enhance the text. Index.

Sattler, Helen Roney. **Fish Facts and Bird Brains: Animal Intelligence.** Illus. by Giulio Maestro. Lodestar Books, 1984. 10–14.

This unusual discussion combines actual scientific research on animal intelligence with a light and conversational style. The reader

will see how all sorts of animals—higher order and lower, large brained and small—use their ingenuity and intelligence to solve problems and to communicate. The book even includes a series of intelligence tests that may be administered to one's pet. With its humorous and entertaining illustrations, this is truly a refreshingly unique presentation.

### *Birds*

Bonnors, Susan. **A Penguin Year**. Illus. by author. Delacorte Press, 1981. 7-10.

Produced in picture-book format and profusely illustrated, the text contains fairly complicated scientific information. It is probably most appealing if read to children who, on their own, can later examine the pictures and read the text. The book does give names to two penguins, but beyond that it maintains an informal nonfiction style. The choice of type adds to the artistry.

Greenberg, Polly. **Birds of the World**. Illus. by Philip Rymer. Platt & Munk, 1983. 8-12.

A rather general treatment of characteristics of birds, but there is enough information to interest readers and send them to other sources for details about specific species. Color and black-and-white illustrations.

Gustafson, Anita. **Burrowing Birds**. Illus. by Joel Schick. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1981. 6-10.

Discusses varieties of birds that burrow underground to nest, including the kookaburra, kiwi, and burrowing owl. The text is clear and interesting, although it is somewhat inconsistent in the amount and type of information included for each species. Detailed watercolor illustrations are reproduced only in black and white. Index.

Jacobs, Francine. **Bermuda Petrel: The Bird That Would Not Die**. Illus. by Ted Lewin. William Morrow, 1981. 8-11.

An account of a bird that nests only in Bermuda, the Bermuda petrel, also called the cahow, and the campaign to keep this unique seabird from becoming extinct. Black-and-white wash illustrations depict the bird and its environment.

Lewis, Naomi. **Puffin**. Illus. by Deborah King. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1984. 6-10.

From its birth on the cliffs of Scotland to its traumatic crossing of the Atlantic, the life cycle of one little puffin unfolds. Exquisite color illustrations show a meticulous concern for accurate representation of the puffin's behavioral traits, its physical characteristics, and its natural environment.

McGowen, Tom. **Album of Birds**. Illus. by Rod Ruth. Rand McNally, 1982. 9-12.

Deals with general characteristics of birds, including beaks and bills, toes and talons, and the construction of wings, with attention to unique traits of a large number of species. A short section of information about other species is appended. Full-color and black-and-white illustrations clarify details of description.

Patent, Dorothy Hinshaw. **Where the Bald Eagles Gather**. Illus. by William Muñoz. Clarion Books, 1984. 8-12.

In a style that is both dramatic and scientifically precise, current research on the habits and behavior of bald eagles is described. The text is supported by superb action photographs. The book is written with the clarity and objectivity of a children's documentary.

Wolff, Ashley. **A Year of Birds**. Illus. by author. Dodd, Mead, 1984. 5-8.

Each month of the year is highlighted by the different birds that visit Ellie's country home. The text is appropriately simple as the author-illustrator places lavish attention on detailed black print drawings that are done with glowing colors and crisp lines. Birds are appropriately detailed to show different species. A visual treat. (Picture book)

### *Domesticated Animals*

Casey, Brigid, and Wendy Haugh. **Sled Dogs**. Dodd, Mead, 1983. 9 and up.

The authors reveal the extraordinary story behind the life of the sled dog in the frozen north. The reader gets a close look at the history of these hardy dogs, variations in the breeds, and the special duties performed on expeditions and in times of war. The glossary is a nice addition to the well-written text. Photographs reinforce the text and, along with drawings, help to illustrate such techniques as harnessing the dogs.

Isenbart, Hans-Heinrich. **Baby Animals on the Farm**. Photographs by Ruth Bau. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1981. 5-10.



Infant farm animals are presented in their natural environment through color photographs and a brief, factual text. An appendix presents additional information.

Lavine, Sigmund A., and Brigid Casey. **Wonders of Draft Horses**. Dodd, Mead, 1983. 8–12.

The simple text, accompanied by crisp black-and-white photographs with descriptive captions, traces the history, describes the breeds, and generally sings the praises of this hardworking “gentle giant” of horsedom.

Patent, Dorothy Hinshaw. **Arabian Horses**. Holiday House, 1982. 8–12.

This informative book provides a thorough introduction to the Arabian horse, a versatile breed noted for its speed, beauty, and endurance. High-quality black-and-white photographs complement the text. Horse fans will really appreciate this well-organized book that contains a table of contents, glossary, index, and list of places to write for more information.

Patent, Dorothy Hinshaw. **Horses of America**. Holiday House, 1981. 8–11.

A straightforward discussion of the evolution and characteristics of various breeds of horses. The breeds are indentified for different uses—work, sports, pleasure. Accurate information is complemented by clear, carefully selected photographs. A table of contents, glossary, index, and list of suggested readings round out this informative text.

Patent, Dorothy Hinshaw. **A Picture Book of Ponies**. Photographs by William Muñoz. Holiday House, 1983. 8–12.

The simple text briefly covers the physical characteristics, behavior, and uses of the various breeds of ponies. There is an index but no table of contents. Black-and-white photographs.

### *Fish*

Blassingame, Wyatt. **Wonders of Sharks**. Dodd, Mead, 1984. 10 and up.

Few living creatures can excite our fears as readily as sharks. This exceptionally well written text and its fascinating photographs will capture young readers' attention with modern tales of sharks as

well as basic scientific information on their anatomy, habitat, and behavior.

Elting, Mary. **Mysterious Seas**. Illus. by Fiona Reid. Grosset & Dunlap, 1983. 9-12.

The huge underwater "supermarket" and the strange creatures that feed on one another are treated in an interesting way. The text is fairly easy to read despite its density. Some illustrations are more florid than informative, but most add information.

Freedman, Russell. **Killer Fish**. Holiday House, 1982. 8-12.

A description of some dangerous sea creatures and the ways they kill. The well-organized contents and smooth prose help the reader absorb much fascinating information. Excellent photographs and a useful index.

Horton, Casey. **Fish**. Gloucester Press, 1983. 10 and up.

Part of the Insight series, this compendium of information about common and uncommon fish will serve as a good reference for students interested in the topic. Most illustrations are clearly done. Also in the series is *Reptiles* by David Lambert.

Lane, Margaret. **The Fish: The Story of the Stickleback**. Illus. by John Butler. Pied Piper Books, 1981. 4-9.

This book contains concise, highly readable information about a fascinating type of fish, the stickleback, which gets its name from the three sharp spines on its back. To help him attract a female in the spring, the male stickleback loses his greenish black color as his throat and belly turn brilliant red and his eyes become glittering blue. It is the male who builds a nest and who guards the young until they are about two weeks old. Realistic, detailed illustrations combine with a good book design to make this a fine choice.

### *General Information*

Baskin, Leonard. **Leonard Baskin's Miniature Natural History: First Series**, 4 vols. Illus. by author. Pantheon Books, 1983. 8 and up.

Four square books in an elegant leopard-spotted box comprise this miniature collection. Each book in the series is devoted to illustrating a different aspect of natural life. Insects, domestic animals, extinct animals, and various creatures from the sea are the varied

total points of Baskin's artistry. There is no text, though both common and scientific names are presented. It is Baskin's gift for inspired portraiture that should make this book a joy for older readers who love both art and animals. Brooding, mysterious creatures fading into darkness and boldly colored animals stare out at readers, demanding attention. Books to browse through and savor repeatedly. (Picture books)

Cutchins, Judy A., and Ginny Johnston. **Are Those Animals Real? How Museums Prepare Wildlife Exhibits.** William Morrow, 1984. 8-12.

Children will be fascinated by this unusual, behind-the-scenes look at how museum exhibits are prepared. The art of taxidermy and the creation of animal replicas and diorama displays are discussed with regard to mammals, birds, insects, reptiles, and fish. Short chapters, a clearly and simply written text, and numerous photographs all contribute to this unique presentation.

Hoff, Syd. **The Man Who Loved Animals.** Illus. by author. Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1982. 7-9.

An easy-reading book worthy of recognition because it relates material of real substance without the usual overgeneralization and condescension. Illustrations are caricatures but seem to convey the ideas without distortion. (Picture book)

McClung, Robert M. **Mysteries of Migration.** Garrard, 1983. 9-12.

A discussion of the migration patterns of some birds, mammals, fish, frogs, and insects. The accounts are elaborated by a chapter on the means of tracing migration routes and patterns. A fairly comprehensive presentation, illustrated with diagrams and photographs.

Patent, Dorothy Hinshaw. **Hunters and the Hunted: Surviving in the Animal World.** Holiday House, 1981. 9-12.

Deals not only with the hunting techniques of the predators and the survival of the prey but also with the way this phenomenon relates to the balance of nature. The text is written in an interesting manner and is complemented by clear photographs and a bibliography for further reading.

Robinson, Marlene M. **Who Knows This Nose?** Dodd, Mead, 1983. 6-12.

Fascinating facts about all kinds of noses—noses of humans and of such animals as pigs, kiwis, and cheetahs. Children will enjoy trying to guess the animal just by looking at its nose. The functions of noses are interestingly described. Good index.

Simon, Seymour. **Little Giants**. Illus. by Pamela Carroil. William Morrow, 1983. 7–10.

Brief descriptions of the largest of the small animals, including a rodent as big as a pig, a bird-eating spider, a five-hundred-pound clam, and the Komodo dragon. Detailed, realistic ink illustrations are accompanied by a few clearly stated facts about these unusual creatures.

Zweifel, Frances. **Animal Baby-Sitters**. Illus. by Irene Brady. William Morrow, 1981. 7–10.

Explains how such animals as cows, elephants, and macaques function as baby-sitters, thus helping animal parents raise their young. Large two-color illustrations complement this interesting introduction to animal cooperation.

### *Insects*

Cole, Joanna. **An Insect's Body**. Photographs by Jerome Wexler and Raymond A. Mendez. William Morrow, 1984. 7–10.

Children will be interested in the unusual facts presented in this clearly written, well-illustrated book. Concentrating on crickets, the text discusses anatomy (mouthparts that resemble a Swiss army knife) and behavior (head-butting, antennae-slashing mating wars). The enlarged black-and-white photographs illustrate the smallest anatomical details.

Graham, Ada, and Frank Graham. **Busy Bugs**. Illus. by D. D. Tyler. Dodd, Mead, 1983. 7–11.

Explains for the bug enthusiast why insects always seem so busy by describing the lives of fourteen different kinds of insects, ranging from field crickets to tent caterpillars. Extremely detailed pen-and-ink illustrations and diagrams are helpful in understanding the text and are also quite beautiful depictions of insects.

McClung, Robert M. **Sphinx: The Story of a Caterpillar**, rev. ed. Illus. by Carol Lerner. William Morrow, 1981. 7–10.

A completely reillustrated edition of the 1949 classic. The life cycle

of the caterpillar is finely detailed in elegant pen-and-ink drawings. The fictionalized account is concise and authoritative; Sphinx will give young readers valuable insights into nature's regenerative processes.

Reigot, Betty Polisar. **Questions and Answers about Bees.** Illus. by Robert Andrew Parker. Scholastic Book Services, 1983. 7-10.

The question-and-answer format encourages selective reading and makes for an informative source on bees. Mating habits, individual duties, and intricate dances that communicate messages about food are all described in concise language and nicely illustrated with watercolors.

Sabin, Francene. **Amazing World of Ants.** Illus. by Eulala Conner. Troll Associates, 1982. 7-9.

There is a lot to say about these little insects, and this text covers the material with authority and clarity. In addition to the usual information on anatomy, colony living, and social order, the text discusses warlike ants from South America and Africa, honey ants, weaver ants, and prehistoric specimens. The illustrations are colorful, active, and teeming with life.

Sabin, Louis. **Amazing World of Butterflies and Moths.** Illus. by Jean Helmer. Troll Associates, 1982. 7-9.

From this approachable text, children will learn interesting facts about moths and butterflies as well as how to distinguish one from the other. The detailed color illustrations are graceful and precise.

### *Monkeys and Apes*

Anderson, Norman D., and Walter R. Brown. **Lemurs.** Illus. with photographs. Dodd, Mead, 1984. 7-10.

A simply written yet precise text describes the appearance, behavior, and the natural habitat of this unusual relative of the monkey. The richly colorful photographs illustrate the uncommon beauty of these residents of Madagascar.

Harris, Lorle K. **Biography of a Mountain Gorilla.** Illus. by Nancy V. A. Hansen. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1981. 7-11.

A fictionalized account of a gorilla from birth to age nine, when he is considered an adult male, capable of leading his own tribe. It presents factual information about eating and sleeping habits, as well as gorilla environments, life-styles, and enemies. Easy to read

and understand. Muted black-and-white and colored illustrations scattered throughout the story depict the environment and the gorilla tribe.

Hunt, Patricia. **Gibbons**. Dodd, Mead, 1983. 7-10.

After reading this succinct and clearly written text, readers will know all about a typical day in the life of this interesting, unusual, and often overlooked primate. Social behavior and communication are particularly well described. The scientific information is nicely adapted to the young audience. The final chapters deal with problems of gibbon survival, concluding with the sad and moving experience of a gibbon used for medical experimentation and a heartfelt plea that humans leave gibbons in their wild rain forests. The large print and generous line spacing make for easy reading.

Koebner, Linda. **From Cage to Freedom: A New Beginning for Laboratory Chimpanzees**. Lodestar Books, 1981. 10-14.

This story of the transfer of laboratory chimpanzees to a new and more natural habitat is simply outstanding. The text reveals the lonely, inhumane, and psychologically damaging life-style these chimps endured before they experienced their first taste of freedom in an animal preserve in Florida. The reader will come to know the chimps as individuals, each with a distinct personality, and will observe their antics and their joy over their newfound home. This moving, first-person narrative is presented with sensitivity and sincerity and possesses the precise detail of behavioral research. The photographs harmonize with the text and help to further personalize the experience.

McClung, Robert M. **Gorilla**. Illus. by Irene Brady. William Morrow, 1984. 10-14.

Factual information about a gorilla band in Africa is told in a narrative style. The text describes the gorillas' mountain habitat and discusses the many dangers threatening their existence. The writing style involves the reader with the gorillas, making them seem almost human, yet it does not distract from the authenticity of the text. Excellent black-and-white illustrations; bibliography.

McDearmon, Kay. **Orangutans: The Red Apes**. Dodd, Mead, 1983. 10 and up.

The text and photographs describe the habitats, physical characteristics, life-styles, and feeding and mating habits of orangutans in the wild and also in captivity. Clear captions to the photographs

add to the body of information. An appended bibliography would be useful for readers who want to do further research.

### *Pets*

Arnold, Caroline. **Pets without Homes.** Photographs by Richard Hewet. Clarion Books, 1983. 5-9.

An informative account of the functioning of an animal shelter, told through the examples of two homeless pets, Buffy the puppy and Max the cat. The photographs further depict what happens to Buffy and Max at the shelter and the duties of animal shelter workers.

Cole, Joanna. **A Cat's Body.** Photographs by Jerome Wexler. William Morrow, 1982. 7-10.

An excellent, informative book about the anatomy of cats, including a description of the cat's skeleton and its suitability to hunting. The photographs follow the text closely. A nice bit of information included is how to read a cat's facial expressions by looking at its ears and whiskers to determine whether the cat is angry, happy, or frightened.

Curtis, Patricia. **Animal Partners: Training Animals to Help People.** Lodestar Books, 1982. 12 and up.

Seven young people reveal their own personal experiences in training and using animals to help the disabled. First-person narratives provide a close-up look at how all sorts of animals are used today to help retarded and emotionally disturbed children, physically handicapped individuals, and the elderly living in nursing homes. Children who love animals will be fascinated by this fresh, exciting career. The rewards of this work, as well as the dedication and patience required, are conveyed through lucid and conversational prose.

Fischer-Nagel, Heiderose, and Andreas Fischer-Nagel (translated by Andrea Mernan). **A Kitten Is Born.** Photographs by authors. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1983. 4-9.

The birth and development of kittens are handled skillfully in this book. Considerable factual information is conveyed in readable, straightforward prose. The photographs are of high quality, capturing the wonder of birth and growth as well as being biologically accurate. Children's Choices.

Hess, Lilo. **A Cat's Nine Lives.** Charles Scribner's Sons, 1984. 9-12.

Chronicles the nine lives of Misty, a purebred Persian, from birth to several homes to the animal shelter to a loving home. It presents generally well organized information about the correct and incorrect treatment of cats. Photographs enhance the descriptions of cats in pet shows, at an animal hospital, at a cattery, and in several home situations. Improper treatment and its effects on cats is described in such a way that children and their pets should benefit.

Hess, Lilo. **Diary of a Rabbit.** Charles Scribner's Sons, 1982. 7-11.

A well-organized account of a rabbit's life from birth through the first five months of life. The accompanying photographs add information and interest to the text.

Hess, Lilo. **Making Friends with Guinea Pigs.** Charles Scribner's Sons, 1983. 7-12.

The experiences of three guinea pigs from the same litter are traced in simple but informative prose. The reader learns something of the habits of these interesting little animals and how to care for them. Black-and-white photographs nicely complement the text.

Landshoff, Ursula. **Cats Are Good Company.** Illus. by author. Harper & Row, 1983. 4-8.

A book that introduces the reader to cats and explains in simple language how to care for them. Humorous three-color illustrations add to the text. Good for young children, particularly those who have a cat or who hope to have one.

Poynter, Margaret. **Too Few Happy Endings: The Dilemma of the Humane Societies.** Atheneum, 1981. 10 and up.

The problems of humane societies are given exceptionally even-handed treatment in the text and pictures. The book is organized to explain why there are few happy endings with the pet problems of overpopulation and loss. It is best read in its entirety, though there is a table of contents. The index will be helpful for reference purposes. The type size and format make the book more readable than many books of this kind.

Sabin, Louis. **All about Dogs as Pets.** Illus. by Francene Sabin. Julian Messner, 1983. 10 and up.

Everything from the selection to the care and feeding at all stages of a dog's life is covered accurately and concisely in this wonderful



guide. Historical anecdotes on breeds, sound advice on training, and the author's unmistakable love for dogs contribute to a text that is well written and informative. The appendix contains a list of addresses to write to for further information. Black-and-white photographs demonstrating training procedures are particularly helpful.

Selsam, Millicent E., and Joyce Hunt. **A First Look at Cats.** Illus. by Harriet Springer. Walker, 1981. 6-9.

An introduction to cats, both wild and domesticated. Physical characteristics, habits, and natural environments are discussed. Concise pencil drawings of each cat accompany the text and add to the descriptions.

### *Reptiles and Amphibians*

Billings, Charlene W. **Salamanders.** Dodd, Mead, 1981. 8-12.

Factual information about types of salamanders, where to find them, and how to keep them as pets. Illustrated with photographs that show different kinds of salamanders and their habitats. Index.

Chace, G. Earl. **Rattlesnakes.** Dodd, Mead, 1984. 9-12.

Written in a style that draws readers to the life of a snake, this account of a prairie rattlesnake's existence includes information about birth, means of defense, and hibernation. Illustrated with good photographs. Index.

Col., Joanna. **A Snake's Body.** Photographs by Jerome Wexler. William Morrow, 1981. 6-9.

Filled with information that answers the kinds of questions children ask about snakes, such as how do they move and survive without legs. Interesting and easy to read. Fine-quality photographs enhance the simple text.

Freedman, Russell. **Killer Snakes.** Holiday House, 1982. 9-12.

An interesting presentation of information about poisonous and other dangerous snakes. Accompanying photographs are generally of high quality.

Freedman, Russell. **Rattlesnakes.** Holiday House, 1984. 8-12.

The anatomy and behavioral habits of the rattlesnake are graphically illustrated in enlarged black-and-white photographs. In prose

that is both interesting and informative, the text explains and identifies rattlesnake behavior, characteristics, and habits depicted in the photographs.

Hopf, Alice L. **Bio<sub>g</sub>raphy of a Komodo Dragon.** Illus. by Jean Zallinger. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1981. 8-12.

A carefully researched and written account of the life cycle of the large lizards on the island of Komodo. The narrative is fast paced, interesting, and packed with information. The writing style is unusually complex for a book so easy to read. The one weakness is the drab illustrations, although they will appeal to young scientists and artists.

Scott, Jack Denton. **Alligator.** Photographs by Ozzie Sweet. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1984. 9-12.

An interesting and informative description of alligators that clearly distinguishes them from crocodiles. This well-written book is illustrated with high-quality photographs.

Tarrant, Graham. **Frogs.** Illus. by Tony King. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1983. 4-8.

Pop-up books are notorious for their short lives when entrusted to the care of curious, eager children. Yet this book, and its companion about butterflies, deserves mention because it works so well in presenting readers with some dynamic scientific concepts. It makes good use of the three-dimensional medium to show a frog kicking or a tadpole changing into a frog. Also recommended is *Butterflies*. Children's Choices.

### *Seals and Whales*

Meyers, Susan. **Pearson: A Harbor Seal Pup.** Photographs by Ilka Hartmann. E. P. Dutton, 1980. 7-12.

A true account of an orphaned harbor seal who was cared for by the California Marine Mammal Center until it was old enough to be released into the ocean. The smooth writing style will quickly make the reader empathize with the seal and its caretakers.

Patent, Dorothy Hinshaw. **Whales: Giants of the Deep.** Holiday House, 1984. 10 and up.

Just about everything one could want to know about whales is found in this well-written, liberally illustrated book. This superb

examination looks at individual species, from the "little" beluga (15 feet long) to the world's largest animal, the blue whale (averaging 81 feet long), and reveals social behavior, eating habits, migration patterns, and much more. The story of whales, historical and scientific, is told here with clarity and directness.

### *Spiders*

Crosby, Alexander L. **Tarantulas: The Biggest Spiders.** Walker, 1981. 9 and up.

The truth about tarantulas, those large and fierce-looking spiders, is revealed in this scientifically documented yet approachable book. Are tarantulas dangerous? What do they eat? Where do they live? How long do they live? The author even discusses that interesting group of people who keep tarantulas as pets. The large and detailed black-and-white photographs and the high interest level of this fascinating and unusual topic will lure readers and keep their attention.

Patent, Dorothy Hinshaw. **Spider Magic.** Holiday House, 1982. 9-12.

Excellent photographs complement a well-written, carefully researched book about the characteristics, behavior, and special organs of different spiders. The index is helpful, as are diagrams pointing out important features of spiders.

Selsam, Millicent E., and Joyce Hunt. **A First Look at Spiders.** Illus. by Harriet Springer. Walker, 1983. 5-9.

Characteristics and classifications of spiders are clearly and concisely explained. The text is simple, yet it does not talk down to young readers. Black-and-white drawings add to the text and allow readers to study characteristics of spiders and webs. An excellent beginning science book.

### *Wild Animals*

Arnosky, Jim. **Secrets of a Wildlife Watcher.** Illus. by author. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1983. 9-14.

A careful presentation of times, places, and methods that will be best for finding, stalking, and watching wildlife. The clear, readable text is framed by a wealth of pencil sketches of animals and the evidence they leave behind. The author emphasizes methods that do not require expensive equipment and that are safe for both the

observer and the observed. Measurements are given in metrics. Teachers' Choices.

Bare, Colleen Stanley. **Rabbits and Hares.** Photographs by author. Dodd, Mead, 1983. 9 and up.

Written in a lively and relaxed style, this text differentiates between rabbits and hares, examining their history, feeding and breeding habits, and struggle for survival. In addition, such topics as domestic breeds, the rabbit business, and raising rabbits are also covered. Excellent photographs.

Bare, Colleen Stanley. **Tree Squirrels.** Photographs by author. Dodd, Mead, 1983. 7-10.

By reading this energetic and descriptive text, children will become better acquainted with tree squirrels and their habits. Because tree squirrels are so abundant, children may find that the information so clearly presented here will stimulate their own powers of observation and help them to understand and appreciate the history and behavior of an animal that is sometimes taken for granted. Photographs effectively show differences in species and illustrate squirrel behavior.

Blassingame, Wyatt. **The Strange Armadillo.** Dodd, Mead, 1983. 7-10.

Young readers will take pleasure in this informative, enjoyable text written in a relaxed, almost anecdotal tone. The unusual appearance and insect-eating behavior of this strange little animal are discussed as well as recent medical research involving armadillos and the treatment of leprosy. Photographs are distributed generously throughout the text.

Chiefari, Janet. **Kids Are Baby Goats.** Dodd, Mead, 1984. 7-10.

Structured around the early lives of twin French Alpine goats, the text and photographs give much information about the habits of goats. The comparison in development of young goats to young children is carried throughout the book.

Dinneen, Betty. **Striped Horses: The Story of a Zebra Family.** Illus. by Stefan Bernath. Macmillan, 1982. 9-14.

Written in a style that highlights the dangers faced by zebras in their natural habitat, the text provides considerable information about the habits of zebras. Although the zebras are given names,

as one might find in scientific research, they are never anthropomorphized. A short bibliography is included.

Ford, Barbara. **Alligators, Raccoons, and Other Survivors: The Wildlife of the Future.** William Morrow, 1981. 10-14.

A clear explanation of how wildlife management and legislation have affected the survival of many species in the United States, with some projections about the future. The informal writing, the solid documentation, plenty of unusual photographs, and a detailed index make this a useful resource for both research and general reading.

Ford, Barbara. **Black Bear: The Spirit of the Wilderness.** Houghton Mifflin, 1981. 12 and up.

How do wildlife biologists learn about the behavior of the solitary black bear? Advanced science students will be the best audience for this well-researched discussion of an animal that possesses a fascinating history. The modern tracking procedures and observational techniques are presented in detailed narratives. The text is amply supplemented with photographs.

Graham, Ada, and Frank Graham. **Bears in the Wild.** Illus. by D. D. Tyler. Delacorte Press, 1981. 9-14.

The reader's attention will be grabbed by the first-chapter account of the 1860 episode of P. T. Barnum putting Grizzly Adams and his bears on display in New York City. Each of the other eight chapters is a separate treatment of a facet of the study of bears carried out by naturalists. The book's subject and style will give it a wide range of appeal. Illustrations and other graphics are elegant.

Hopf, Alice L. Hyenas. Dodd, Mead, 1983. 7-10.

Frequently relying on the scientific observations of Hans Kruuk and Jane Goodall, Hopf examines the social behavior of the common spotted hyena. Final chapters are devoted to two other hyena species, the striped hyena and the brown hyena, and to the aardwolf, a relative.

Lane, Margaret. **The Beaver.** Illus. by David Nockels. Pied Piper Books, 1981. 7-11.

A simple, clear text presents accurate information about the habits, characteristics, and behavior of beavers. The artwork is strikingly realistic, and the double-page spread with a text inset in white is effective.

Lavine, Sigmund A. **Wonders of Coyotes.** Dodd, Mead, 1984. 9 and up.

A readable, informative account of the characteristics and behavior of coyotes. It also includes an interesting chapter on myths related to these animals. The combination of photographs and old prints for illustrations makes it an attractive book.

Lavine, Sigmund A. **Wonders of Hippos.** Dodd, Mead, 1983. 9 and up.

Do hippos really sweat blood? What do they eat? Are they friendly? The unusual physical appearance and fascinating land and water behavior of this strange and generally shy beast are described thoroughly in prose that is nicely adapted to children. There is a particularly interesting chapter on hippo lore that discusses hippo-inspired superstitions and hippos in art and literature.

Lavine, Sigmund A. **Wonders of Woodchucks.** Dodd, Mead, 1984. 9-12.

Woodchuck lore and factual information about the evolution, physical characteristics, and behavior of these creatures make an interesting text. The book is written in a readable style, illustrated with photographs and drawings, and indexed.

Laycock, George. **Bats in the Night.** Four Winds Press, 1981. 9 and up.

This book dispels many of the myths surrounding the often misunderstood bat. The nocturnal habits of bats are described in short, concise sentences. In the final section, there is a particularly useful discussion of the individual behaviors and appearances of a dozen species. Impressive black-and-white photographs detail physical characteristics.

Leen, Nina. **Rare and Unusual Animals.** Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1981. 9-12.

Features an interesting array of animals and birds, including the tapir, kinkajou, bongo, and Komodo dragon. The clearly written text, high-quality photographs, and generally good format make this a useful reference book. Index.

MacClintock, Dorcas. **A Raccoon's First Year.** Photographs by Eilan Young. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1982. 7-10.

Photographs and text complement each other beautifully in this close-up look at Ruffian's first year of life. From the age of only one week through the mating season, the young raccoon is seen exploring her environment. Climbing skills, feeding habits, and

typical raccoon curiosity and playfulness are presented in terms of Ruffian's own experiences.

McClung, Robert. **Rajpur: Last of the Bengal Tigers.** Illus. by Irene Brady. William Morrow, 1982. 10 and up.

A beautifully printed account of a tiger's life. Although given a name and personality, the tiger is neither sentimentalized nor anthropomorphized. This engaging account, based on current research, examines social and predatory behavior. Full-page illustrations capture the tiger's strength and beauty.

Oxford Scientific Films. **Harvest Mouse.** Photographs by George Bernard, Sean Morris, and David Thompson. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1981. 6-12.

Examines the characteristics and habits of the harvest mouse. Beautiful, detailed photographs characterize this and the other books in this wildlife series. The text is sparse but informative as it explains each picture. The layout of the books is visually attractive. Other books in the series include: *Grey Squirrel*, *Jellyfish and Other Sea Creatures*; *Mosquito*; and *Penguins*.

Patent, Dorothy Hinshaw. **Horses and Their Wild Relatives.** Holiday House, 1981. 10 and up.

A presentation of information about the evolution of horses from Eohippus and Miohippus. It includes descriptions of horses in the wild and of horse relatives such as zebras. Accompanying photographs are adequate but not always clear.

Pringle, Laurence. **Feral: Tame Animals Gone Wild.** Macmillan, 1983. 10 and up.

A challenging but well-documented report about the behavior of feral animals, ranging from birds to horses. Each species is treated separately, beginning with its known origin as a tame animal and then showing how members of the species have sometimes become wild.

Pringle, Laurence. **Vampire Bats.** William Morrow, 1982. 9-12.

A well-honed text and clear photographs describe many facets of three species of small, blood-eating bats found in Central and South America. Chapters focus on social life in the bat roost, feeding habits, and some ways of controlling the numbers of these bats, which can transmit rabies to humans and other animals.

Rue, Leonard Lee, III, and William Owen. **Meet the Opossum.** Photographs by Leonard Lee Rue III. Dodd, Mead, 1983. 7-10.

In language that is friendly and approachable, this text provides a knowledgeable account of the strange-looking opossum. An inhabitant of Earth since the dinosaurs and an eater of practically anything, this mammal is a fascinating topic of discussion. The photographs detail all stages of the opossum's growth and development and illustrate its habits in the wild with exceptional accuracy.

Ryden, Hope. **Bobcat.** Photographs by author. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1983. 9 and up.

This superbly written text is complemented with extraordinary photographs. Every aspect of the bobcat's existence is presented in prose that is lucid and precise. The discussions of evolution and natural selection are remarkably well done. Students will appreciate the large print. Index.

Scott, Jack Denton. **Moose.** Illus. by Ozzie Sweet. E. P. Dutton, 1980. 10 and up.

Solitary but surviving, the moose makes a subject of intrigue. Both the text and excellent photographs tell the facts and the risks to the moose's survival in a readable, informal style. The book will have wide appeal since the moose is native to a vast geographic area.

Stewart, John. **Elephant School.** Photographs by author. Pantheon Books, 1982. 7 and up.

A well-constructed description of a government training school in Thailand where elephants are taught skills needed for work in the teak forests. Highly interesting facts are presented in smooth prose and are accompanied by good black-and-white photographs.

## Archeology

Ford, Barbara, and David C. Switzer. **Underwater Dig: The Excavation of a Revolutionary War Privateer.** William Morrow, 1982. 12 and up.

A clear, thorough account of the excavation of the *Defence*, an American privateer's sloop in Penobscot Bay during the Revolution-



ary War. Photographs and diagrams will help the reader visualize the overall structure of the ship. The text will help readers understand how nautical archeologists, like other archeologists, interpret and record their findings.

Lyttle, Richard B. **Waves across the Past: Adventures in Underwater Archeology.** Illus. by author. Atheneum, 1981. 12 and up.

Representative archeological excavations in lakes, rivers, wells, and seas all over the world are described in this clearly written, carefully researched book. Details of the history and of the contributions of underwater archeology to our understanding of the past and descriptions of its methods and techniques are blended with narrative accounts of explorations that capture the drama and excitement of discovery. Index and bibliography.

### Astronomy

Adams, Richard. **Our Amazing Sun.** Illus. by Patti Boyd. Troll Associates, 1983. 7-11.

One of four books in the Question and Answer Book series, this book provides basic information on the sun, including solar spots, sunspots, and the sun's distance from Earth. The content of all the titles is excellent; the question-and-answer style makes it easy to find information, and concepts are clearly explained. The books are useful with children of all ages, though the cartoonlike format may deter some and keep them from thinking the text is accurate. Included in the series are *All about Stars* by Lawrence Jefferies; *All about the Moon* by David Adler; and *Our Wonderful Solar System* by Richard Adams.

Branley, Franklyn M. **Comets.** Illus. by Giulio Maestro. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1984. 5-8.

A creative text combines with colorful, animated illustrations and planetarium-type page spreads for a lively and interesting presentation. The book explains what comets are, how they are formed, and how their orbits periodically bring them close to Earth. Children will particularly enjoy the discussion of the most famous comet of them all, Halley's comet.

Branley, Franklyn M. **Halley: Comet 1986.** Illus. by Sally J. Bensusen. Lodestar Books, 1983. 8-12.

A book about the comet and the man who first predicted its return. The work is well written in an easy style, giving information about previous sightings of the comet and where to look for it in 1986. Black-and-white photographs and diagrams complement the definitive text.

**Branley, Franklyn M. *Is There Life in Outer Space?*** Illus. by Don Madden. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1984. 4-8.

Even the most reluctant science students will be entertained and informed by this cheerful text with its humorous cartoonlike illustrations. Aided by photographs from outer space, children will discover what we know about the existence of life on planets in our solar system. The book includes some imaginative speculation as to what life in other solar systems may be like.

**Branley, Franklyn M. *The Planets in Our Solar System.*** Illus. by Don Madden. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1981. 7-10.

Facts, figures, diagrams, and photographs explain and illustrate the solar system. The book is written for young children, but it is useful with older children for basic factual information. The text is clear and concise and does not talk down to young readers. The book presents an interesting mixture of illustrations and clearly understood diagrams, including instructions for making models showing the relative sizes of planets and their relative distances from the sun.

**Branley, Franklyn M. *The Sky Is Full of Stars.*** Illus. by Felicia Bond. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1981. 6-10.

Introductory information about stars and the constellations they form. Illustrations of the night sky show how and when to locate familiar constellations. The book would be effective for home use since much of the information and instructions could be used by parents working with children. A good reference for teachers.

**Gallant, Roy A. *Once around the Galaxy.*** Franklin Watts, 1983. 10 and up.

A description of the galaxy from the earliest known myths and writings about the stars to what is known today. A clear writing style and complete glossary of terms make the book very readable and informative. Illustrated with photographs, drawings, and diagrams.

Simon, Seymour. **Earth: Our Planet in Space.** Four Winds Press, 1984. 6-10.

A basic introduction to the solar system and Earth's place in it, the seasons, and Earth's topography. A companion volume, *The Moon*, introduces Earth's closest neighbor. Both use terms simple enough for beginning astronomers and are profusely illustrated with black-and-white photographs that greatly amplify the text. Some photographs, such as that of the aurora borealis, might have been more luminous and spectacular in color.

### Computers

Ardley, Neil. **Computers.** Warwick Press, 1983. 10 and up.

Presents a clear but challenging discussion that includes information about the parts of a computer, how a computer works, how to program a computer, the history of computers, and the impact of computers in the workplace and at home.

Berger, Melvin. **Computer Talk.** Illus. by Geri Greinke. Julian Messner, 1984. 9 and up.

A cross-referenced dictionary of terms relating to computers and their programming—from *access* to *zebra stripes*. Definitions are clearly written and complete in this very useful book.

Billings, Charlene W. **Microchip: Small Wonder.** Dodd, Mead, 1984. 7-10.

Explains what a microchip is, what it is used for, how it is made, and how it works. A fascinating book that is highly informative, clearly written, and well organized. Table of contents and index.

D'Ignazio, Fred. **Messner's Introduction to the Computer.** Julian Messner, 1983. 9-12.

Past, present, and future computer developments are viewed through the eyes of the computer pioneers of the twentieth century. This book is filled with complex facts and insights presented simply enough for interested upper-grade readers. Although the text sequence is sometimes confusing and chapter titles are cute rather than informative, specific information can be located by using the complete index and glossary.

D'Ignazio, Fred. **The Star Wars Question and Answer Book about Computers.** Illus. by Ken Barr. Random House, 1983. 8-12.

A computer reference book with a question-and-answer format. Illustrations and photographs augment the comparisons in the text between complex ideas and everyday experience. Together, they work to make abstract concepts quite understandable. A glossary is provided for technical terms, but there is no table of contents nor index. However, the questions are presented in boldface type and grouped by topic, making specific information fairly easy to locate. Children's Choices.

Hellman, Hal. **Computer Basics.** Illus. by Art Seiden. Prentice-Hall, 1983. 10-14.

A brief introduction to today's computers—from the electronic principles that power them to the jobs they perform. Photographs and illustrations supplement the text, and together they give a clear, albeit highly simplified, treatment to a complex topic. The table of contents, index, and glossary provide easy access to specific information.

Hintz, Sandy, and Martin Hintz. **Computers in Our World, Today and Tomorrow.** Franklin Watts, 1983. 10 and up.

This well-written book does a good job of introducing readers to a wide range of uses for computers, including the fields of medicine, business, government, science and technology, entertainment, and education, and uses in the home.

Markle, Sandra. **Kids' Computer Capers: Investigations for Beginners.** Illus. by Stella Ormai. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1983. 9-12.

The interesting format and style are designed to intrigue and amuse as well as to inform the reader. Chapters on the history of computers, how computers work, and basic programming make this a comprehensive introduction to the world of computer technology. An index and glossary enhance the usefulness of this book.

Paltrowitz, Stuart, and Donna Paltrowitz. **Robotics.** Jem Books, 1983. 10-12.

The principles behind how robots work are presented simply enough for students to understand. Information about the uses of

robots in industry and offices is complemented by descriptions of other uses for robots that children may find more meaningful. One illustration showing a robot offering alcoholic beverages is accompanied by a caption that euphemistically describes them as cold drinks. Other photographs are strong complements to the text, however.

Ruane, Pat, and Jane Hyman. **LOGO Activities for the Computer: A Beginner's Guide.** Illus. by Leslie Morrill. Julian Messner, 1984. 10 and up.

Directions for using the LOGO language to produce computer graphics are generally clear in the text and illustrations. The book is written for adults, children, or children working with adults.

Simon, Seymour. **Computer Sense, Computer Nonsense.** Illus. by Steven Lindblom. J. B. Lippincott, 1984. 9-12.

A humorous yet informative book about what is and isn't true of computers. It deals with their history, capability, and operation.

Stevens, Lawrence. **Computer Programming Basics.** Illus. by Art Seiden. Prentice-Hall, 1984. 9 and up.

A brief history of programming, with an introduction to writing simple commands in BASIC. The clearly written text and adequate background information make this introduction to computers both interesting and accessible. Table of contents, glossary, and index.

### Conservation and Ecology

George, Jean Craighead. **One Day in the Alpine Tundra.** Illus. by Walter Gaffney-Kessell. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1984. 10 and up.

A beautifully written account of the actions of wild creatures during a day on the tundra. The story highlights the drama of change brought about by events that lead up to and follow an avalanche. The presence of an adolescent boy, camping among the wildlife, adds tension and also serves to call attention to the ways people can affect living things in the wilderness. The black-and-white drawings are a fine addition to the text.

Milne, Lorus J., and Margery Milne. **Dreams of a Perfect Earth.** Illus. by Stephanie Fleischer. Atheneum, 1982. 10 and up.

A challenging book, but good readers will find it worthwhile for the information about ecological changes taking place on Earth.

The authors suggest conservation measures that can be taken to ensure that future generations can enjoy our natural environment.

Milne, Lorus J., and Margery Milne. **The Mystery of the Bog Forest.** Dodd, Mead, 1984. 9-12.

Beginning with an account of the formation of a bog, the text continues by describing wildlife, plant life, and, perhaps most interesting, some of the mysteries that have been ascribed to bogs over the years. Illustrated with well-composed photographs.

Poynter, Margaret. **Wildland Fire Fighting.** Atheneum, 1982. 10 and up.

A readable account of the causes of forest fires, the responsibilities of forest rangers, and the dangers encountered by those who fight forest fires. Photographs.

### **Earth Science, Meteorology, and Oceanography**

Asimov, Isaac. **How Did We Find Out about Life in the Deep Sea?** Illus. by David Wool. Walker, 1982. 7-10.

A description of the discovery of life in the oceans and an introduction to oceanography. This is one book in a series of *How Did We Find Out* books that answer children's questions about different scientific discoveries. The facts are those that would be of interest to children, and they are presented in simple, direct language. Black-and-white illustrations and diagrams aid the explanations and add interest.

Branley, Franklyn M. **Rain and Hail.** Illus. by Harriett Barton. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1983. 4-8.

Where do rain and hail come from? How are they made? The process is described in a personal, clear, and informative style. The approachable text and cheerful, cartoonlike color illustrations combine to create a most pleasing little book.

Coombs, Charles. **Gold and Other Precious Metals.** William Morrow, 1981. 10-14.

The adventure, excitement, and lure of searching for gold are captured in this particularly well written and informative discussion. The comprehensive text covers everything from the ancient fascination with gold to the days of the American gold rush to

modern prospecting and methods of refining. Photographs, a glossary, and an index are included, as well as a section on silver and platinum.

Dean, Anabel. **Going Underground: All about Caves and Caving.** Dillon Press, 1984. 9-12.

A presentation of interesting lore about caves as well as information about them. Chapters deal with caves as shelter, storerooms, and mines, and give information about techniques and equipment used in spelunking.

Gilfond, Henry. **Disastrous Earthquakes.** Franklin Watts, 1981. 10 and up.

Though the sensational effects of earthquakes are described in more detail than the probable causes, the book does include a considerable amount of information to interest elementary students. The accompanying photographs are generally of good quality.

Jaspersohn, William. **A Day in the Life of a Marine Biologist.** Little, Brown, 1982. 9-12.

Liberally illustrated with photographs and packed with information about the work of a marine biologist. The book follows a college professor through a day, filling out the profile of the profession by discussing the research of students and colleagues.

Lloyd, David. **Air.** Illus. by Peter Visscher. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1982. 8-11.

An account of air as a substantive element of the natural world. Good explanations are given for wind, air travel, wind power, and air pollution. Engaging full-color illustrations combine well with a minimal text to present each concept.

Polking, Kirk. **Oceans of the World: Our Essential Resource.** Philomel Books, 1983. 11 and up.

"What primeval urge draws us irresistibly to the sea? Is it because we are mostly water ourselves and perhaps came from the sea millions of years ago?" So begins a text that will intrigue and inform the most advanced science students. This comprehensive and well-researched discussion of the formation, geologic features, life forms, uses, and future of the world's oceans is supplemented

with color and black-and-white photographs, diagrams, and drawings.

Pringle, Laurence. **Frost Hollows and Other Microclimates**. William Morrow, 1981. 10-14.

"Little climates are all around us, on distant mountain slopes and underfoot." Though the title is a bit academic, this text examines an unusual subject with simplicity and directness. Children will learn why and how climates within a few yards of each other vary and how this variation significantly affects the survival of plants and animals. The language is concise, and the three-chapter text is supplemented with a glossary and photographs.

Scarry, Huck. **Our Earth**. Illus. by author. Julian Messner, 1982. 8-12.

A fine reference book filled with facts and with illustrations and diagrams about Earth, the solar system, the evolution of humans, and their dominance on Earth. A time-line at the top of each page records developments over the time since the formation of Earth, while distance from the sun to all the planets is recorded at the bottom of each page. A book that will fascinate and inform inquisitive young readers.

Settle, Mary Lou. **Water World**. Lodestar Books, 1984. 10-14.

Although the first few chapters seem a bit disjointed, the rest deal with many interesting aspects of underwater exploration. Illustrated with photographs that are adequate, though not always clear.

Zim, Herbert S. **Quartz**. William Morrow, 1981. 9-12.

A detailed look at the world's most common mineral, whose forms range from the ordinary grain of sand to the semiprecious amethyst. The book describes various aspects of quartz, from its chemical and physical makeup to its applications in science and in business. Well illustrated with photographs and clear diagrams.

## Energy

McDonald, Lucile. **Windmills: An Old-New Energy Source**. Illus. by Helen Hawkes Battey. Elsevier/Nelson, 1981. 10 and up.

Describes the different types and uses of windmills from the seventh century to the present, with anecdotes about mills and millers



to enliven the account. Photographs and line drawings supplement this readable text. A substantial bibliography and a detailed index make it valuable for research.

**Olney, Ross R. *Offshore! Oil and Gas Platforms in the Ocean.*** E. P. Dutton, 1981. 10 and up.

An introduction discussing the uses of oil from early civilization to the present leads to a series of chapters detailing the work of those employed on offshore oil and gas platforms. Photographs add information about the platforms and equipment used in oil production.

### General Science Concepts

**Ardley, Neil. *How Things Work.*** Illus. by Dave Etchell. Simon and Schuster, 1984. 9 and up.

Short answers are followed by more complete explanations to questions arranged under six categories: Science and Technology, Transportation, Out in Space, Planet Earth, Plants and Animals, and Ourselves. Each question/answer is accompanied by a clear, colored illustration. Questions are concise and direct: "How does a windmill work?" "How does a car steer?" "How do snakes move?" The table of contents and index are helpful.

**Bassett, Preston R. (with Margaret Farrington Bartlett). *Raindrop Stories.*** Illus. by Jim Arnosky. Four Winds Press, 1981. 5-8.

Four short stories about rainstorms, featuring a raindrop named Johnny. The fictionalized style clearly explains to young children various types of rain and storms—a gentle spring shower, a hailstorm, a summer thundershower, an autumnal rain, and an ice storm. Full-color, uncluttered illustrations depict and enhance the text. Useful for reading aloud throughout the year, during or after the storm described.

**Berger, Melvin. *Disastrous Floods and Tidal Waves.*** Franklin Watts, 1981. 10 and up.

The text devotes more space to chronicling famous floods in history than to discussing causes of floods. However, there is some information on conditions that can bring about flooding and on preventive measures. Photographs add to the material presented in the text.

Brandt, Keith. **What Makes It Rain? The Story of a Raindrop.** Illus. by Yoshi Miyake. Troll Associates, 1982. 7-10.

Follows the journey of a raindrop through the water cycle. The concepts presented here are simple, but the material has been selected and organized with the audience in mind. Illustrations enhance the text and occasionally clarify information.

Brandt, Keith. **Wonders of the Seasons.** Illus. by James Watling. Troll Associates, 1982. 7-10.

Presents a simple, fairly clear concept of the seasons, including an attempt to show how the tilt and rotation of Earth relative to the sun influence the seasons.

Cobb, Vicki. **Lots of Rot.** Illus. by Brian Schatell. J. B. Lippincott, 1981. 7-11.

"Want to do some rotten stuff?" asks the author, who then presents some hands-on experiments with molds and bacteria. The book contains good elementary science information on molds, with a glossary of terms. The illustrations are simple, colorful, and amusing.

Fisher, Leonard Everett. **Storm at the Jetty.** Illus. by author. Viking Press, 1981. 7-11.

Paintings, in shades of gray-blue offset by white, let the reader see and feel the approaching storm with Levi as he sits "in the cockpit" of the rocks on the jetty. The short text—a few lines on each double-page spread—is rich in alliteration, metaphor, and a cadence that changes with changes in the weather. The observations are specific to one place, but children will be quick to make the transition to their own watching places when storms are approaching, and they will sense the feeling of trust that the day will be bright when the storm passes.

Goor, Ron, and Nancy Goor. **All Kinds of Feet.** Thomas Y. Crowell, 1984. 3-7.

A Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science Book that describes the function of many creatures' feet. Children can glean interesting facts about their own feet and those of many familiar animals. The simple text is enhanced with many black-and-white photographs.

Leutscher, Alfred. **Earth.** Illus. by John Butler. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1984. 5-9.

Despite a somewhat disjointed text, words and pictures combine to give children an introduction to some of the wonders of Earth. Illustrations are precise and attractive. The text would need to be read aloud to younger children. Also recommended is *Water*.

Rydell, Wendy. **Discovering Fossils.** Illus. by Ray Burns. Troll Associates, 1984. 9-12.

An introduction to fossils, fossil dating, and the origins of fossils. The text is not simple, but it is clearly organized and is supplemented by the illustrations. One of the better books in this Question and Answer Book series, which also includes *Air, Air, Air* by Lawrence Jefferies; *All about Animal Migrations* by John Sanders; *All about Islands* by Wendy Rydell; and *Wonders of Water* by Jane Dickinson.

Santrey, Laurence. **What Makes the Wind?** Illus. by Bert Dodson. Troll Associates, 1982. 7-10.

Although the information presented here is very basic, attention is given to a number of conditions that produce winds and to the influence of winds on nature and on wildlife.

Satchwell, John. **Fire.** Illus. by Tom Stimpson. Dial Press, 1982. 7-10.

An intriguing inspection of all aspects of fire—that occurring naturally and that caused by humans—and all its uses. The scientific aspects are clearly explained. Illustrations done in a photorealistic style complement the text. The full-color glow of all types of fires will catch the eye of young readers.

Simon, Seymour. **The Dinosaur Is the Biggest Animal That Ever Lived and Other Wrong Ideas You Thought Were True.** Illus. by Giulio Maestro. J. B. Lippincott, 1984. 9-12.

The text and illustrations explain why twenty-nine popular statements about scientific phenomena—lightning never strikes twice; snakes are slimy—are not true. Much of the information is useful as well as interesting.

Simon, Seymour. **Hidden Worlds: Pictures of the Invisible.** William Morrow, 1983. 8-14.

A fascinating book illustrated with black-and-white and color photographs of worlds too small, too far away, or too fast for the naked

eye. All types of scientific equipment are used—X rays, microscopes, Edgerton's high-speed flash, solar telescopes—to capture beautiful images. The clear text will entice children into reading more about the various worlds and instruments.

Simon, Seymour. **The Optical Illusion Book**. Illus. by Constance Ftera. William Morrow, 1984. 9 and up.

A whole book on how to achieve optical illusions, with well-illustrated explanations. Lines and spaces, changing figures, depth, and color contrasts are among the illusions included. Explanations of how the eye works and why we see the illusions make this more than just a book of tricks. The table of contents and index are well organized for research, and just glancing through this fascinating volume should intrigue readers.

### **Human Health and Development**

Betancourt, Jeanne. **Smile! How to Cope with Braces**. Illus. by Mimi Harrison. Alfred A. Knopf, 1982. 9-12.

A good, straightforward discussion of dental problems that make braces necessary, the hardware involved in orthodontic treatment, and the problems that braces sometimes create for wearers. Illustrations clarify information and also add a touch of humor.

Brown, Marc, and Stephen Krensky. **Dinosaurs Beware! A Safety Guide**. Illus. by authors. Atlantic Monthly Press Books, 1982. 4-8.

Approximately sixty commonsense safety tips are humorously presented by colorful cartoon dinosaurs. The tips, highly appropriate for a young audience, are to the point without being scary. Organized to cover situations at the playground, at home, in the car, during meals, and in case of fire.

Bruun, Ruth Dowling, M.D., and Bertel Bruun, M.D. **The Human Body: Your Body and How It Works**. Illus. by Patricia J. Wynne. Random House, 1982. 10-14.

A well-designed and well-organized book about the body, its regions, and its systems. The text is very readable and yet comprehensive; an extensive index is included. The accompanying medical

illustrations are of high quality and are accurate. A resource book that children will enjoy using.

Cole, Joanna. **How You Were Born.** William Morrow, 1984. 4-8.

In a simple text enhanced by many black-and-white photographs and diagrams, children's questions about how they came to be are answered as the author explains how a baby is conceived, how it grows in the womb, and how it is born. The matter-of-fact style is appealing and respectful of children's abilities to understand the process.

Hamilton-Merritt, Jane. **Our New Baby.** Photographs by author. Julian Messner, 1982. 5-8.

Told in the voice of a young boy, this text conveys the anticipation and excitement of welcoming a new member to the family. Black-and-white photographs.

Howe, James. **The Hospital Book.** Photographs by Mal Warshaw. Crown, 1981. All ages.

A realistic, honest, no-nonsense explanation of hospitals from the point of view of young people. No specific illness is discussed, but processes are described using children in the examples. The approach is not frightening, but neither is it euphemistic or sweet. Photographs raise questions beyond the text answers. The book will be interesting for those who know someone going into the hospital as well as for those who will enter.

Jessel, Camilla. **The Joy of Birth: A Book for Parents and Children.** Illus. by author. Hillside Books, 1982. 6-11.

A simple yet complete explanation of conception, growth and development of the fetus, and birth. Suggestions are given for how older children can help throughout pregnancy and after the infant is born. Black-and-white photographs complement the text. A glossary with diagrams is informative, but an index would have been helpful.

Knight, David C. **Viruses: Life's Smallest Enemies.** Illus. by Christine Kettner. William Morrow, 1981. 9-14.

The informative, straightforward text not only answers the question "What is a virus?" but it answers many other related questions as well. It traces the history of viral research to present work on

Interferon and includes a concise and understandable account of the functions of RNA and DNA. The well-written text is accompanied by graphic diagrams, photographs, a complete glossary, an index, and a list of landmark dates. The careful research in preparation of the text is apparent.

Kremetz, Jill. **How It Feels When a Parent Dies.** Alfred A. Knopf, 1982. 8 and up.

A sensitive book in which young people speak of their emotions in coping with the death of a parent. Written in the first person, the book wisely avoids any moralizing by allowing the children to speak directly. Their voices are painfully honest, yet they should be of comfort to children dealing with a similar loss.

Nourse, Alan E., M.D. **Your Immune System.** Franklin Watts, 1982. 10 and up.

Information about the body's immune defense system is presented clearly and in an interesting manner. Unfortunately, the illustrative material is not always as clear.

Seixas, Judith S. **Junk Food: What It Is, What It Does.** Illus. by Tom Huffman. Greenwillow Books, 1984. 8-11.

An easy-to-read book that discusses some key concepts about healthy diets. Junk foods are examined as they relate to basic dietary needs. Quite a few ideas about physiology and nutrition are introduced here, though not elaborated on. Still, this book may be a good beginning reference for intermediate-grade students who need a simplified text.

Seixas, Judith S. **Tobacco: What It Is, What It Does.** Illus. by Tom Huffman. Greenwillow Books, 1981. 6-10.

Clear, concise language for the read-alone audience traces the history of tobacco use and its short-term and long-term effects on health. The book includes chapters on addiction and social pressure. Cartoon drawings and humorous subtitles reinforce healthful practices while avoiding preachiness.

Sharp, Pat. **Brain Power! Secrets of a Winning Team.** Illus. by Martha Weston. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1984. 10-12.

Jam-packed with facts that should fascinate intermediate-age students, this book provides a good introduction to a study of the

brain and its operation. The author manages to bring the topic down to a more concrete level through some effective use of analogies. Illustrations are another plus for this book.

Silverstein, Alvin, and Virginia B. Silverstein. **The Story of Your Ear.** Illus. by Susan Gaber. Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1981. 11-14.

For the highly motivated child, a thorough introduction to the structure of the ear and the science of hearing. Pen-and-ink illustrations help with difficult concepts. Chapter two could be excellent resource material for the study of sound.

Silverstein, Alvin, and Virginia B. Silverstein. **The Story of Your Mouth.** Illus. by Greg Wenzel. Coward-McCann, 1984. 10 and up.

The cover is not very attractive, but the reader who gets past it will find a clear, straightforward discussion of parts of the mouth, their functions, and how to take care of them.

Smaridge, Norah. **What's on Your Plate?** Illus. by C. Imbior Kudrna. Abingdon Press, 1982. 5-9.

Twelve humorous nutrition rhymes for young children. Not so much poetry as a catchy way to introduce children to good eating habits. Black-and-white illustrations add to the humor of the rhymes.

Trier, Carola S. **Exercise: What It Is, What It Does.** Illus. by Tom Hultman. Greenwillow Books, 1982. 6-10.

Simple exercises are presented in an easy-to-read format accompanied by line illustrations with a touch of humor. The exercises are to be done by individuals and pairs; they utilize a few readily available props such as towels, a beach ball, or books. The book emphasizes posture and safety.

Wachter, Oralee. **No More Secrets for Me.** Illus. by Jane Aaron. Little, Brown, 1983. 7-13.

Originally an award-winning film titled *No More Secrets*, this book presents four short stories that deal with the difficult topic of sexual abuse. The book manages a respectful, honest approach to the topic of dealing with abuse. It avoids preaching and simply focuses on reassuring children that they do have a right to privacy and to their own feelings about touching. Soft, simple line illustrations enhance the text. Students can read this book independently, or teachers may wish to use it as a springboard for discussion.

## Machines

Cole, Joanna. **Cars and How They Go**. Illus. by Gail Gibbons. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1983. 5-10.

A clear, interesting account, truly written with the child in mind, of how the gasoline engine makes a car go. Each system is analyzed and discussed in relation to the whole: steering, brakes, exhaust, crankshaft, etc. Brightly colored line drawings add further details using cutaways, diagrams, and other helpful illustrations.

Horwitz, Elinor Lander. **How to Wreck a Building**. Photographs by Joshua Horwitz. Pantheon Books, 1982. 9-12.

This first-person narrative describes the wrecking of an old school. Text and photographs capture the stages of the process and sensitively present the child's feelings of excitement and sadness.

Marston, Hope Irvin. **Fire Trucks**. Dodd, Mead, 1984. 7-10.

The machinery and equipment used for fighting fires on land, air, and water are described in short, simple sentences. The effectiveness of the large black-and-white photographs could, at times, be enhanced if captions had been provided. Though many statistics (gallons of water, gallons per minute, ladder length) are included, the text is clearly written as well as being informative.

Murphy, Jim. **Tractors: From Yesterday's Steam Wagons to Today's Turbo-Charged Giants**. J. B. Lippincott, 1984. 8-11.

A parade of creative thinkers and inventors is presented in a well-researched, energetic narrative on the history of the tractor. Though at times the subject is complex, the pleasing style will sustain most interested readers. Photographs and prints.

Olney, Ross. **Farm Giants**. Atheneum, 1982. 7-11.

A book of special interest to children who are curious about machines. The text and photographs describe a number of modern farm implements, including tractors and combines, and demonstrate the work they do on farms.

Weiss, Harvey. **Machines and How They Work**. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1983. 10 and up.

Describes the working principles of six simple machines: the lever, inclined plane, screw, wedge, wheel and axle, and pulley. The



black-and-white illustrations are a very good complement to the text, partially because they add a touch of humor to the uses for these machines.

### Mathematics

Anno, Masaichiro, and Mitsumasa Anno. **Anno's Mysterious Multiplying Jar.** Illus. by Mitsumasa Anno. Phi omel Books, 1983. 10 and up.

Information about factorials as a mathematical concept is clearly presented in text as well as in illustrations. The introductory section is beautifully illustrated, but children may require some help from an adult to understand this complex concept.

### Physics and Chemistry

Apfel, Necia H. **It's All Relative: Einstein's Theory of Relativity.** Illus. by Yukio Kondo. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1981. 11 and up.

A challenging yet readable discussion of the theory of relativity. The treatment of space and time is accompanied by well-constructed photographs and line drawings.

Bains, Rae. **Discovering Electricity.** Illus. by Joel Snyder. Troll Associates, 1982. 8-10.

A straightforward treatment of how electricity works and what it does. Illustrations help to clarify concepts and make this book appropriate for primary as well as intermediate-grade children.

Hogan, Paula Z. **The Compass.** Illus. by David Wool. Walker, 1982. 9 and up.

Presents rather brief descriptions of a number of types of compasses, from early Chinese inventions to modern gyrocompasses. Instructions for putting together and testing some homemade compasses add to the value of the book.

Kettelkamp, Larry. **The Magic of Sound,** rev. ed. Illus. by Anthony Kramer. William Morrow, 1982. 9 and up.

This update of the original 1956 edition is enhanced by the addition of information about modern recording technology and accompa-

nying photographs. Although the format appears rather dense in the proportion of text to illustrations, the pencil drawings and photographs add information to the text.

## Plants

Brandt, Keith. **Discovering Trees.** Illus. by Christine Willis Nigoghosian. Troll Associates, 1982. 6-11.

A detailed account of trees, emphasizing growth from seeds, the parts of trees, and differences and similarities. Clear text, abundant illustrations, and much information presented in a factual but not boring way.

Brown, Anne Ensign. **Monarchs of the Forest: The Story of the Redwoods.** Dodd, Mead, 1984. 10 and up.

Though some children will find the scientific and historical details something of a burden, this book will appeal to advanced science students who will be fascinated by these silent giants and the descriptions of their environment and how they survived. Excellent photographs.

Cross, Diana Harding. **Some Plants Have Funny Names.** Illus. by Jan Brett. Crown, 1983. 4-8.

What are Dutchman's-breeches? How did milkweed get its name? Does skunk cabbage really smell? The relationship between a plant's name and how it looks or what it does is the focus of this informative little book. Children will enjoy the history of the names, the exquisite drawings, and the large, boldface type.

Dowden, Anne Ophelia. **From Flower to Fruit.** Illus. by author. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1984. 9-12.

A description of how flowers mature into seed-bearing fruits. The book is beautifully illustrated with detailed drawings of many types of seeds, fruits, and flowers. The index includes botanical names for plants.

Holmes, Anita. **The 100-Year-Old Cactus.** Illus. by Carol Lerner. Four Winds Press, 1983. 6-11.

The story of the saguaro cactus as the center of desert ecology is traced in its one hundred years from seed to mature plant. Children will be fascinated by how much life exists in the seemingly desolate

desert. Pen-and-ink illustrations washed in desert colors give close-up details of life during day and night.

Lerner, Carol. **Pitcher Plants: The Elegant Insect Traps.** Illus. by author. William Morrow, 1983. 9-12.

Attractive in format, style, and illustrations, this description of pitcher plants introduces them as plants of prey but ends with an epilogue warning that they too may vanish because of changes in the ecological system. Glossary.

Mabey, Richard. **Oak and Company.** Illus. by Clare Roberts. Greenwillow Books, 1983. 9-12.

Traces the life of one oak tree from its beginning as an acorn to its death 282 years later and includes information about the many plants and animals associated with the tree. The text contains a tremendous amount of interesting information conveyed in a readable style. Illustrations present numerous botanical details.

Selsam, Millicent E. **Catnip.** Photographs by Jerome Wexler. William Morrow, 1983. 9-12.

Comprehensive information about catnip, including its historical background as a medicinal herb and the reproduction process in the catnip flower. The book also describes some experiments with catnip but does not reveal the source of its appeal to cats.

Selsam, Millicent E. **Cotton.** Photographs by Jerome Wexler. William Morrow, 1982. 7-10.

Excellent close-up photographs, some in color, complement this story about the origin and development of the cotton plant. The text is well organized, and the writing is crisp and clear. Helpful index.

Selsam, Millicent E. **The Plants We Eat**, rev. ed. Photographs by Jerome Wexler. William Morrow, 1981. 8-11.

This revised edition includes new photographs, although it retains the best from the earlier edition. Additional plants have been incorporated in the descriptions of roots, stems, leaves, flowers, fruits, and grains. It remains a thorough and carefully conceived informational book.

Selsam, Millicent E. **Tree Flowers.** Illus. by Carol Lerner. William Morrow, 1984. 10 and up.

Descriptions of twelve types of flowering trees are preceded by an introduction that provides general information about flowers and introduces a specialized vocabulary. The botanical illustrations are precise and complement information in the text. The book would be more useful to children if it included a map of the United States, showing the location of these flowering trees.

### Prehistoric Life

**Asimov, Isaac. How Did We Find Out about the Beginning of Life?** Illus. by David Wool. Walker, 1982. 10–13.

Asimov describes experiments in which scientists through the ages attempted to trace the beginnings of life. The book really doesn't end; it just opens into the future. Black-and-white drawings throughout the book illustrate important phenomena and experiments.

**Branley, Franklyn M. Dinosaurs, Asteroids, and Superstars: Why the Dinosaurs Disappeared.** Illus. by Jean Zallinger. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1982. 9–12.

A readable, clearly illustrated treatment of the puzzling disappearance of dinosaurs. A number of theories about the mystery are explored, and there is an appended list of books for further reading.

**Cobb, Vicki. The Monsters Who Died: A Mystery about Dinosaurs.** Illus. by Greg Wenzel. Coward-McCann, 1983. 7–11.

Why did dinosaurs become extinct? Pertinent evidence and some theories are shared with young dinosaur enthusiasts as they are encouraged to help solve the dinosaur mystery. Favorite dinosaurs—Brontosaurus, Stegosaurus, Triceratops, and Tyrannosaurus Rex—and some others are described. Black pen-and-ink drawings highlight the text and give the reader a sense of the size of the mystery creatures. The overabundance of exclamations is stylistically annoying in a scientific book that generates enthusiasm by its topic and the information given.

**Freedman, Russell. Dinosaurs and Their Young.** Illus. by Leslie Morrill. Holiday House, 1983. 6–10.

Dinosaur lovers will enjoy reading about this archeological discovery concerning dinosaur babies and how they were cared for. Real-

istic black-and-white illustrations amplify information in the easy-to-read text.

**Kaufmann, John. *Flying Giants of Long Ago*.** Illus. by author. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1984. 8-12.

A clear text and illustrations trace the history of flying insects from large prehistoric insects to the modern dragonfly. Illustrations are well designed to show comparisons in sizes.

**Mannetti, William. *Dinosaurs in Your Backyard*.** Illus. by author. Atheneum, 1982. 12 and up.

How big were dinosaurs? What did they eat? How are birds related to dinosaurs? Were dinosaurs slow, cold-blooded reptiles? These questions and many others are examined in the light of recent scientific evidence. It is truly amazing what can be learned from the study of fossils, and this text along with its finely detailed pencil illustrations makes understanding dinosaur anatomy and behavior an enjoyable activity.

**Sattler, Helen Roney. *Baby Dinosaurs*.** Illus. by Jean Day Zallinger. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1984. 5-10.

A detailed account of the growth and development of baby dinosaurs based on fossilized remains of a few species. Children will learn not only about dinosaurs but also about the scientific process used to discover how they raised their young. Illustrations reflect research into each species and its environment.

**Sattler, Helen Roney. *Dinosaurs of North America*.** Illus. by Anthony Rao. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1981. 9 and up.

Detailed descriptions of every kind of dinosaur found in North America are accompanied by carefully rendered line drawings. Enthusiasts will enjoy seeing which dinosaurs lived in their regions of the country. Size, characteristics, range, foods eaten, and other information known about each type are given. The listing, by location, of dinosaur discoveries and a thorough index make this a valuable reference book. A large-sized book with clear, bold type.

**Sattler, Helen Roney. *The Illustrated Dinosaur Dictionary*.** Illus. by Pamela Carroll. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1983. All ages.

This up-to-date, comprehensive dictionary includes entries for three hundred dinosaurs and related terms. Each entry provides

the pronunciation and meaning of the animal's name, classification, description, period, and geographic distribution. Illustrations, a chart showing relationships, a bibliography, and an index of dinosaur discoveries make this a valuable reference tool.

### Additional Science Books

- Adler, Irving. *The Wonders of Physics. An Introduction to the Physical World*. Illus. by Cornelius DeWitt. Golden Press, 1966. 12 and up.
- Andrews, Roy Chapman. *All about Strange Beasts of the Past*. Illus. by Matthew Makmenoff. Random House, 1956. 10-14.
- Asimov, Isaac. *Building Blocks of the Universe*, rev. ed. Abelard-Schuman, 1974. 12 and up.
- Baylor, Byrd. *The Desert Is Theirs*. Illus. by Peter Parnall. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1975. 5-8.
- Bendick, Jeanne. *The Shape of the Earth*. Illus. by author. Rand McNally, 1965. 8-12.
- Bendick, Jeanne, and Marcia O. Levin. *Take Shapes, Lines, and Letters: New Horizons in Mathematics*. McGraw-Hill, 1962. 9-12.
- Bitter, Gary G., and Thomas M. Metos. *Exploring with Metrics*. Julian Messner, 1975. 8 and up.
- Branley, Franklyn M. *Air Is All around You*. Illus. by Robert Galster. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1962. 6-8.
- Cole, Joanna. *A Calf Is Born*. Photographs by Jerome Wexler. William Morrow, 1975. 5-8.
- Eberle, Irmengarde. *Bears Live Here*. Doubleday, 1966. 8-11.
- Elliott, Sarah M. *Our Dirty Air*. Julian Messner, 1971. 8 and up.
- Froman, Robert. *Rubber Bands, Baseballs, and Doughnuts: A Book about Topology*. Illus. by Harvey Weiss. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1972. 9-12.
- Gallant, Roy A. *Exploring the Weather*, rev. ed. Illus. by Lowell Hess. Doubleday, 1969. 10-14.
- George, Jean Craighead. *All upon a Stone*. Illus. by Don Bolognese. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1971. 6-9.
- George, Jean Craighead. *The Hole in the Tree*. Illus. by author. E. P. Dutton, 1957. 6-8.
- George, Jean Craighead. *Moon of the Alligators*. Illus. by Adrina Zanzaniar. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1969. 8 and up. Also recommended are the other twelve *Moon* titles in the series.
- Gordon, Sol. *Facts about Sex*, rev. ed. Illus. by Vivien Cohen. John Day, 1973. 12 and up.

- Goudey, Alice E. *Here Come the Lions!* Illus. by Garry MacKenzie. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1956. 8-12.
- Henry, Marguerite. *All about Horses.* Illus. by Walter D. Osborne. Random House, 1967. 8-12.
- Holling, Holling C. *Minn of the Mississippi.* Illus. by author. Houghton Mifflin, 1951. 10-14.
- Hutchins, Ross E. *The Travels of Monarch X.* Illus. by Jerome F. Connolly. Rand McNally, 1966. 8-11.
- Knight, David C. *Harnessing the Sun: The Story of Solar Energy.* William Morrow, 1976. 12 and up.
- LeShan, Eda. *Learning to Say Good-by: When a Parent Dies.* Illus. by Paul Giovanopoulos. Macmillan, 1976. 8 and up.
- Milgrom, Harry. *Understanding Weather.* Illus. by Lloyd Birmingham. Macmillan, 1970. 10-14.
- Ravielli, Anthony. *Wonders of the Human Body.* Illus. by author. Viking Press, 1954. 9-12.
- Reed, W. Maxwell. *The Earth for Sam,* rev. ed. Illus. by Paul F. Brandwein. Harcourt, Brace & World, 1960. 12 and up.
- Scott, Jack Denton. *Discovering the American Stork.* Photographs by Ozzie Sweet. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1976. 10-14.
- Selsam, Millicent E. *Animals as Parents.* Illus. by John Kaufman. William Morrow, 1965. 12-14.
- Selsam, Millicent E. *How Puppies Grow.* Photographs by Esther Bublely. Four Winds Press, 1971. 5-8.
- Selsam, Millicent E. *Play with Seeds.* Illus. by Helen Ludwig. William Morrow, 1957. 8-12.
- Weiss, Ann E. *Save the Mustangs! How a Federal Law Is Passed.* Julian Messner, 1974. 8 and up.
- Zim, Herbert Spencer. *Dinosaurs.* Illus. by James Gordon Irving. William Morrow, 1954. 8-12.

# Fine Arts

## Visual Arts

Ames, Lee J. **Draw 50 Horses.** Illus. by author. Doubleday, 1984. 9 and up.

An instruction book using ovals, circles, and the author's line drawings to show students, step by step, how to compose a picture of a particular breed or view or of a horse in motion. Some searching is necessary to locate a specific set of instructions because neither a content page nor an index is provided.

Arnosky, Jim. **Drawing from Nature.** Illus. by author. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1982. 9 and up.

An explanation of how to draw subjects from nature in the categories of water, land, plants, and animals. This is a reference book for the young person who has some artistic skill or talent.

Bolognese, Don. **Drawing Dinosaurs and Other Prehistoric Animals.** Franklin Watts, 1982. 9-12.

Although the book focuses on drawing dinosaurs, there is good basic advice about many aspects of sketching. Unfortunately, readers who try to use the table of contents may be confused because not all pages are numbered.

Bolognese, Don. **Drawing Spaceships and Other Spacecraft.** Franklin Watts, 1982. 9 and up.

This book deals with objects more difficult to draw than the companion volume on sketching dinosaurs. Included are instructions for drawing rockets, spaceships, and space labs. It presents suggestions for the use of drafting tools and guidance in sketching such basic shapes as the cone and cylinder.

Ceserani, Gian Paolo. **Grand Constructions.** Illus. by Piero Ventura. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1983. 10 and up.



This large volume depicts the history of world architecture by highlighting great building achievements from Stonehenge to modern skyscrapers. Minutely detailed pen-and-ink drawings with full-color wash carefully picture buildings and times past. A glossary of architectural terms and short biographies of great architects make this book a useful resource. A "coffee table" book—not to be read in one sitting but to be savored and leafed through for years to come. Teachers' Choices.

Conner, Patrick. **People at Work: Looking at Art.** Margaret K. McElderry Books, 1982. All ages.

A well-organized presentation of famous artworks described in language the amateur can enjoy. The book points out unusual effects as well as the artistic style and will make excellent adult-child reading. It can supplement a trip to an art museum, either before or after, and can serve in lieu of a museum for those in remote areas. High-quality reproductions.

Gates, Frieda. **North American Indian Masks: Craft and Legend.** Illus. by author. Walker, 1982. 9–12.

Includes interesting information about uses of North American Indian masks in ceremonies and beliefs about masks, as well as directions for making replicas of masks. Photographs and illustrations show masks from a number of tribes so that variations among them can be studied.

Glubok, Shirley. **Dolls' Houses: Life in Miniature.** Harper & Row, 1984. 9 and up.

An elegant book describing dollhouses that are collector's items and tracing nearly three hundred years of the history of dollhouses. Photographs in color and in black and white, of exceptional quality, show dollhouses from a number of museum collections.

Goldstein, Ernest. **Edward Hicks: The Peaceable Kingdom.** Garrard, 1982. 10 and up.

This painting is discussed within the context of history, specifically how Hicks was influenced by William Penn and the Quaker movement. Information about Hicks's technique—especially his use of line, color, and light—will guide the reader in art appreciation. This volume is not as strong as the author's book on Winslow Homer, the first volume in the Let's Get Lost in a Painting series.

Goldstein, Ernest. **Winslow Homer: The Gulf Stream.** Garrard, 1982. 10 and up.

An excellent introduction to art appreciation is presented in the first volume in the Let's Get Lost in a Painting series. Although the focus is on "The Gulf Stream," several other paintings by Homer are included and serve as a basis for the study of his technique.

Huntington, Lee Pennock. **Americans at Home: Four Hundred Years of American Houses.** Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1981. 10 and up.

This clear, concise history of residential architecture in America identifies key styles and architects, describes building techniques and materials, and provides photographs of representative houses.

Munthe, Nelly. **Meet Matisse.** Illus. by Rory Kee. Little, Brown, 1983. 8-12.

Not only will children learn about the artist Matisse and how he worked, but they will also become more familiar with Matisse through working with some of the same media he used. Matisse's bright colors and innovative patterns are beautifully reproduced. The book is further illustrated with diagrams and photographs.

Shepard, E. H. (edited by Brian Sibley). **The Pooh Sketchbook.** Illus. by author. E. P. Dutton, 1984. All ages.

Fans of *Winnie the Pooh* will enjoy this book of sketches by Shepard for the Pooh books, selected from original sketches at the Victoria and Albert Museum in England. Notes explain the sketches, including comments about backgrounds and about changes from the sketches that were made in the final published illustrations.

Simon, Hilda. **The Magic of Color.** Illus. by author. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1981. 10 and up.

A difficult subject is explained with precision in text and pictures. The style is informal and assumes some background on the part of the reader, such as in explaining the process for color illustrations in books. The book will appeal to those interested in science as well as in art.

Ventura, Piero. **Great Painters.** Illus. by author. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1984. All ages.

A fascinating presentation of the history of painting. It includes plates of famous paintings as well as the author's illustrations showing various aspects of a painter's work. A challenging book, but well worth the effort.

### Dance

McCarter, Alan, and Glenn Reed. **I'm Dancing!** Photographs by Michael Spector. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1981. 5-10.

A young girl tells of her feelings and experiences as a beginning dance student. Because of the accompanying photographs showing several different dancers, it is hard to identify the narrator. Also, more of the photographs show children ages six to eight, whereas the narrator's concerns seem more like those of a child who is nine or ten.

Sorine, Stephanie Riva. **At Every Turn! It's Ballet.** Photographs by Daniel S. Sorine. Alfred A. Knopf, 1981. 7-10.

Presents an intriguing approach to introducing young readers to ballet. Using a brief text and black-and-white photographs, this picture essay compares and contrasts the movements of young dancers to the motions of children in everyday situations. The photographs work especially well as a medium for exploring how ballet takes common movements and transforms them into art. Young dance lovers should enjoy looking at this book over and over again.

Sorine, Stephanie Riva. **Imagine That! It's Modern Dance.** Photographs by Daniel S. Sorine. Alfred A. Knopf, 1981. 6-10.

A good introduction to modern dance for readers of all ages. A minimal amount of text and simple black-and-white photographs are used to explore the philosophy of modern dance approaches. Without dealing with technicalities, the photographic essay manages to convey a sense of the joy and freedom that young dancers experience through modern dance.

### Drama

Carlson, Bernice Wells. **Let's Find the Big Idea.** Illus. by Bettye Beach. Abingdon, 1982. 8-12.

This collection of nineteen skits, playlets, and plays offers a variety

of scripts to be acted out as well as a unique approach to the study of theme or main idea. Each script is accompanied by the proverb or lesson it seeks to illustrate. Good as a resource for writing lessons, for reading lessons that focus on identifying the main idea, and for the fun of taking parts and acting out a story.

Drucker, Malka, and Elizabeth James. **Series TV: How a Television Show Is Made**. Clarion Books, 1983. 9 and up.

From the story idea through the script to the actual taping or filming, this book traces the process of putting a TV show together. Interviews with actors, descriptions of story and production meetings, explanations of postproduction procedures, and guidelines for critical viewing are included.

Jennings, Coleman A., and Aurand Harris, editors. **Plays Children Love: A Treasury of Contemporary and Classic Plays for Children**. Illus. by Susan Swan. Doubleday, 1981. 8 and up.

An excellent and varied collection of eleven new and old plays for adults to perform and twelve for children to produce for child audiences. Solid, professional advice for the adult leader on the topic "An Improvisational Approach to Staging" introduces the section on plays for child actors.

Nolan, Paul T. **Folk Tale Plays round the World**. Plays, Inc., 1982. 7-12.

A collection of sixteen royalty-free, one-act plays based on the folklore and customs of various countries, including China, Greece, and Poland. The author's notes preceding each play concisely describe theatrical conventions of each of the countries represented. Included are plays based on such familiar stories as William Tell, as well as original plays based on lesser-known folk beliefs. While much of the dialogue is uninspired, these plays provide solid bases for improvisation and a good introduction to a variety of theatrical traditions.

## Music

Chiefari, Janet. **Introducing the Drum and Bugle Corps**. Illus. by Ann Hagen Griffiths. Dodd, Mead, 1982. 10 and up.

Information ranges from basic facts about the musical and competitive aspects of a drum corps to fairly complex descriptions of

moving in formation. The presentation in story form will involve readers and will put the material into a useful framework.

Hart, Jane, compiler. **Singing Bee! A Collection of Favorite Children's Songs.** Illus. by Anita Lobel. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1982. All ages.

A collection of over one hundred familiar lullabies, folksongs, rounds, action songs, and more to use with young children. Piano accompaniment and guitar chords are given for all songs. Soft pastel and pencil drawings complement each song. This is an excellent collection for home or school use because it contains many songs that are known universally yet are not always readily available in printed form with accompanying music. Title and subject index.

Swears, Linda. **Discovering the Guitar.** Illus. by Gene Azzam; photographs by Keith Derrickson. William Morrow, 1981. 10 and up.

A good introduction to the guitar, beginning with information about how the guitar evolved and what to look for in selecting an instrument. Some basic chords are taught, and songs for practicing these chords are included.

Watson, Clyde, lyrics and music. **Father Fox's Feast of Songs.** Illus. by Wendy Watson. Philomel Books, 1983. All ages.

Modern nursery songs for voice and the piano or guitar. Lullabies, silly songs, dancing songs in rhyme—all are original verse set to music. Memorable melodies that are simple to play yet interesting. Whimsical ink and watercolor illustrations grace each page, complementing the music with wit and gentle fun.

#### Additional Fine Arts Books

Aliki. *Go Tell Aunt Rhody.* Illus. by author. Macmillan, 1974. 4-7.

Audsley, James. *The Book of Ballet*, rev. ed. Frederick Warne, 1968. 12 and up.

Baylor, Byrd. *Sometimes I Dance Mountcains.* Illus. by Bill Sears and Ken Longtemps. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1973. 6-9.

Berger, Melvin. *The World of Dance.* S. G. Phillips, 1978. 10 and up.

Bierhorst, John. *A Cry from the Earth: Music of the North American Indians.* Illus. by author. Four Winds Press, 1979. 10 and up.

Boni, Margaret Bradford. *Fireside Book of Folk Songs*, rev. ed. Arranged for piano by Norman Lloyd. Illus. by Alice and Martin Provensen. Simon and Schuster, 1966. 10 and up.

- Rorten, Helen. *Do You See What I See?* Illus. by author. Abelard-Schuman, 1959. 5-8.
- Bryan, Ashley. *Walk Together: Children. Black American Spirituals.* Illus. by author. Atheneum, 1974. All ages.
- Burr, Lornie. *Two for the Show: Great Comedy Teams.* Julian Messner, 1979. 12 and up.
- Chappell, Warren, adapter. *The Nutcracker.* Illus. by author. Alfred A. Knopf, 1958. 8-12.
- Dell, Catherine. *The Magic of Ballet.* Rand McNally, 1979. 10 and up.
- Douglas, Frederic H., and Rene D'Harnoncourt. *Indian Art of the U.S.* Arno, 1970. 12 and up.
- Fench, Christopher. *The Art of Walt Disney: From Mickey Mouse to the Magic Kingdom.* Abrams, 1975. All ages.
- Garson, Eugenia, and Herbert Haufrecht, editors. *The Laura Ingalls Wilder Songbook.* Illus. by Garth Williams. Harper & Row, 1968. 9 and up.
- Glazer, Tom. *Eye Winker, Tom Tinker, Chir Chopper: A Collection of Musical Fingerplays.* Illus. by Ron Himler. Doubleday, 1973. All ages.
- Glubok, Shirley. *The Art of Ancient Greece.* Atheneum, 1963. 10 and up.
- Glubok, Shirley. *The Art of the Comic Strip.* Illus. by Gerard Nook. Macmillan, 1979. 8-12.
- Glubok, Shirley. *The Art of the New American Nation.* Illus. by Gerard Nook. Macmillan, 1972. 10 and up.
- Glubok, Shirley. *The Art of the Vikings.* Macmillan, 1978. 10 and up.
- Hintz, Martin. *Circus Workin's.* Photographs by author. Julian Messner, 1980. 10-12.
- Hofsinde, Robert. *Indian Arts.* Illus. by author. William Morrow, 1971. 9-12.
- Hofsinde, Robert. *Indian Music Makers.* Illus. by author. William Morrow, 1967. 7-11.
- Hurd, Michael. *The Oxford Junior Companion to Music,* 2d ed. Oxford University Press, 1979. 9 and up.
- Jaffe, Evan. *Illustrated Ballet Dictionary.* Illus. by Phyllis Lerner. Harvey House, 1979. 8-12.
- Mettelkamp, Larry. *Flutes, Whistles and Reeds.* Illus. by author. William Morrow, 1962. 6-10.
- Krauss, Joanna Halpert. *The Dragon, Hammer and the Tale of Oniroku. Two Plays from the Far East.* Illus. by Marisabina Russo. New Plays Books, 1977. 7-10.
- Krementz, Jill. *A Very Young Circus Flyer.* Photographs by author. Alfred A. Knopf, 1979. 10 and up.

- Langstaff, John, adapter. *Frog Went A-Courtin'*. Illus. by Feodor Rojankovsky. Harcourt, Brace & World, 1955. All ages.
- Macaulay, David. *Castle*. Illus. by author. Houghton Mifflin, 1977. 12 and up.
- Macaulay, David. *Cathedral: The Story of Its Construction*. Houghton Mifflin, 1973. 9-12.
- Macaulay, David. *Unbuilding*. Houghton Mifflin, 1980. 10 and up.
- Malcolmson, Anne. *The Song of Robin Hood*. Music arranged by Grace Castagnetta. Illus. by Virginia Burton. Houghton Mifflin, 1947. 9 and up.
- Moe, Christian, and Darwin Reid Payne, editors. *Six New Plays for Children*. Southern Illinois University Press, 1971. 9 and up.
- Moses, Montrose J., editor. *A Treasury of Plays for Children*. Little, Brown, 1921. 9 and up.
- Price, Christine. *Arts of Clay*. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1977. 10 and up.
- Price, Christine. *The Story of Moslem Art*. E. P. Dutton, 1964. 10-14.
- Prokofieff, Sergei. *Peter and the Wolf*. Illus. by Frans Haacken. Franklin Watts, 1968. 5-9.
- Schaaf, Peter. *The Violin Close Up*. Photographs by author. Four Winds Press, 1980. All ages.
- Seeger, Ruth C. *American Folksongs for Children*. Illus. by Barbara Cooney. Doubleday, 1948. All ages.
- Segovia, Andrés, and George Mendoza. *Andres Segovia, My Book of the Guitar: Guidance for the Young Beginner*. Philomel Books, 1979. 6 and up.
- Thomas, William E. *So You Want to Be a Dancer*. Photographs by Ray Bengston and Michael Elam. Julian Messner, 1979. 6 and up.

# Crafts and Hobbies

## Craft Art

Becker, Joyce. **Bible Crafts**. Holiday House, 1982. 7-11.

A collection of craft and art projects that focus on Old Testament figures. Directions and diagrams are easy to follow.

Blocksma, Mary, and Dewey Blocksma. **Easy to Make Spaceships That Really Fly**. Illus. by Marisabina Russo. Prentice-Hall, 1983. 5-8.

Easy-to-follow instructions and illustrations describe how to make spaceships from paper plates and styrofoam cups. The results are simplistic compared to today's space vehicles with which readers are familiar, but the designs could inspire readers to try out some of their own ideas.

Brown, Osa. **The Metropolitan Museum of Art Activity Book**. Random House, 1983. 8 and up.

A cornucopia of activities for creative children based on works of art from the museum. The interesting variety of possibilities includes a Japanese carp kite, masks, Early American games, and a jumping jack. Directions are clear and precise. Art from the museum is vividly reproduced and is accompanied by interesting explanations of the history of the era and the artistic techniques used to create each object.

Brown, William. **Wood Works: Experiments with Common Wood and Tools**. Illus. by M. G. Brown. Atheneum, 1984. 8 and up.

A complete woodworking book for children. It explains differences in wood and materials and then demonstrates projects step by step. Adult assistance will be needed by younger children. Line drawings are sketchy but workable.

Linsley, Leslie. **Air Crafts: Playthings to Make and Fly**. Photographs by Jon Aron. E. P. Dutton, 1982. 5-8.



Projects for eight aircraft are explained with step-by-step photographs. The instructions are easy to follow, but a child will need adult supervision in the choice of materials and for accuracy in construction.

Supraner, Robyn. **Fun with Paper.** Illus. by Renzo Barto. Troll Associates, 1981. 5-9.

One in a collection of activity books for young children. The books contain directions for making a variety of objects and can be used individually or for group activities. Explanations are clear, and patterns and examples are included. Most materials are easily obtainable. The book titles indicate the types of materials and crafts. Other books in the series include *Great Masks to Make*; *Magic Tricks You Can Do*; *Plenty of Puppets to Make*; and *Rainy Day Surprises You Can Make*.

Tarsky, Sue, editor. **Never a Dull Moment.** Schocken Books, 1983. 7-10.

A collection of games, activities, and facts arranged under forty topics, including dinosaurs, tepee construction, poetry, and electricity. Artwork by different illustrators adds interest. The easy-to-follow instructions and variety of topics will keep many children stimulated. Good for the classroom.

## Cooking

Bayley, Monica. **The Wonderful Wizard of Oz Cook Book.** Illus. by W. W. Denslow. Macmillan, 1981. 10 and up.

Organized by foods representing colors associated with key places in the land of Oz, this cookbook is fun to read and use. Although some recipes are quite simple and could be followed by children, the majority will probably be used by parents and grandparents who still think fondly of the land of Oz.

Boxer, Arabella. **The Wind in the Willows Country Cookbook.** Illus. by Ernest Shepard. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1983. 10-14.

Of special interest to those who enjoyed reading *The Wind in the Willows* and who would like to learn to make some English dishes that Toad and Mole would admire, such as toad-in-a-bad-hole, mixed fruit fool, and Cornish pasties. Other recipe titles will intrigue children into trying to make some unusual dishes. Clear

directions are accompanied by helpful tips; easier recipes are marked with an asterisk. Food passages and illustrations from *The Wind in the Willows* are included.

Hayes, Phyllis. **Food Fun**. Illus. by Irene Trivas. Franklin Watts, 1981. 7-10.

An interesting approach to a cookbook—an assortment of simple, easy-to-read recipes and additional art and craft activities using food. As a nice safety touch, the author uses a red star to indicate steps where adult assistance will be needed. Limited color illustrations are used to explain the ingredients and some recipe steps. Recipes include some old favorites like chocolate pudding for eating (and finger painting) and macaroni salad (with macaroni jewelry).

John, Sue. **The How-To Cookbook**. Illus. by Nick Hardcastle, Carolyn Bull, and Judith Escreet. Philomel Books, 1982. 9-13.

This beautifully illustrated, softcover cookbook provides readers with a variety of delicious recipes to make while learning some basic cooking and baking techniques. Recipes are for main courses, desserts, and snacks. Hints are also given on how to vary recipes. Safety precautions are dealt with satisfactorily. Ingredients are listed clearly, and each direction is accompanied by an attractive color illustration. This cookbook, first published in Great Britain, provides metric measurements, so some young readers might need help when measuring ingredients.

John, Sue. **The Time to Eat Cookbook**. Illus. by Elizabeth Wood and Nick Hardcastle. Philomel Books, 1982. 10-13.

Another attractive, interesting cookbook by John. This one provides more ambitious recipes for meals that may take anywhere from twenty minutes to an hour and a half to complete. Suggestions for menus show attention to the need for nutritional balance in meals. More advanced cooks should find some challenges here, with recipes for golden vegetable soup and fluffy-topped fruits. Metric measurements.

Moore, Eva. **The Great Banana Cookbook for Boys and Girls**. Illus. by Susan Russo. Clarion Books, 1983. 7-12.

This carefully thought-out cookbook for children focuses on some delectable recipes using bananas. The text and simple illustrations clearly delineate safety precautions, cooking utensils, and step-by-step procedures for recipes like frozen banana pops and banana-

apple salad. A good source for helping children to discover that nutritionally sound food items can also be appetizing.

Pfrommer, Marian. **On the Range: Cooking Western Style.** Illus. by David Marshall. Atheneum, 1981. 10-14.

Clear directions and a large variety of Tex-Mex recipes make this cookbook a functional introduction to Western cooking. Not all recipes are traditionally Western, however—such as French toast and spaghetti sauce. The introduction includes many helpful tips for safe cooking and a glossary of cooking terms used in the text. Illustrated with humorous line drawings.

### Other Projects and Pastimes

Abrams, Lawrence. **Throw It out of Sight!** Dillon Press, 1984. 10 and up.

Directions for constructing, flying, and repairing a model glider are accompanied by photographs that highlight the details.

Baker, James W. **Illusions Illustrated: A Professional Magic Show for Young Performers.** Illus. by Jeanette Swofford; photographs by Carter M. Ayres. Lerner Publications, 1984. 9 and up.

A thorough, well-organized, how-to magic book. Instructions are complete and easy to follow, with photographs and line illustrations providing further detail. Easy-to-acquire materials are used. The book provides instructions for organizing a magic show and suggests appropriate dialogue. Disappearing, escaping, and predicting are all demonstrated.

Cone, Ferne Geller. **Crazy Crocheting.** Photographs by J. Morton Cone and author. Atheneum, 1981. 8 and up.

Well-illustrated, easy-to-follow instructions for the craft of crocheting. Projects include finger puppets, hats, and soft sculpture. Children will be inspired to create on their own by connecting rings and chains, adding beads, and so on.

Gryski, Camilla. **Cat's Cradle, Owl's Eyes: A Book of String Games.** Illus. by Tom Sankey. William Morrow, 1984. 9 and up.

A clear text and accompanying illustrations lead the reader through the steps necessary to make string figures used in games and in storytelling. Unfortunately, the book stops short of including stories that could go along with the figures.

Kettelkamp, Larry. **Magic Made Easy**, rev. ed. Drawings by Loring Eutemey; photographs by Donovan Klotzbeacher. William Morrow, 1981. 10-14.

A collection of magic tricks—some for use in group settings, others to do by oneself or for oneself. Photographs and diagrams scattered throughout the book help to explain how to perform the tricks. Table of contents and index.

Lowndes, Rosemary, and Claude Kailer. **Make Your Own Noah's Ark**. Illus. by authors. Little, Brown, 1984. 8 and up.

A cut-out book with the necessary parts and instructions for creating a colorful Noah's ark. The addition of the biblical passage about the ark and information about its size adds to the usefulness of the book for adults working with children.

MacGregor, Anne, and Scott MacGregor. **Skyscrapers: A Project Book**. Illus. by authors. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1981. 9-12.

From the foundation to the walls and windows, from earthquake protection to elevators, the authors outline the construction of skyscrapers. A historical record traces early versions to the most famous contemporary structures. Complete instructions are given to create a model skyscraper using readily available materials. A companion book, *Domes*, explains the history and structure of different types of domes.

Sheridan, Jeff. **Nothing's Impossible: Stunts to Entertain and Amaze**. Photographs by Jim Moore. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1982. 9 and up.

A high-spirited guide to performing magic tricks. The excellent, brief text and well-staged black-and-white photographs give step-by-step instructions for thirty tricks. Only commonly available props are utilized. Every reader will want to try a few tricks.

### Additional Craft and Hobby Books

Bank-Jensen, Thea (translated by Virginia Allen Jensen). *Play with Paper*. Macmillan, 1962. 6-12.

Brown, Vinson. *How to Make a Home Nature Museum*. Illus. by Don G. Kelly. Little, Brown, 1954. 10-12.

Cooper, Elizabeth K. *Science in Your Own Backyard*. Illus. by author. Harcourt, Brace & World, 1958. 9-12.

- Cummings, Richard. *101 Masks: False Faces and Make-up for All Ages, All Occasions*. David McKay, 1968. 8-14.
- D'Amato, Janet. *Colonial Crafts for You to Make*. Illus. by Alex D'Amato. Julian Messner, 1975. 10 and up.
- de Regniers, Beatrice Schenk, and Isabel Gordon. *The Shadow Book*. Photographs by Isabel Gordon. Harcourt, Brace & World, 1960. 4-8.
- Hirsch, S. Carl. *Printing from a Stone: The Story of Lithography*. Viking Press, 1967. 10 and up.
- Hobson, Burton. *Coin Collecting as a Hobby*. Sterling Publishing, 1972. 10 and up.
- Marks, Mickey K. *Collage*. Illus. by Edith Alberts; photographs by David Rosenfeld. Dial Press, 1968. 7 and up.
- Seidelman, James E., and Grace Mintoynne. *Creating with Clay*. Illus. by Robert W. Hinds. Crowell-Collier, 1967. 9-12.
- Simon, Seymour. *The Paper Airplane Book*. Illus. by Byron Barton. Viking Press, 1971. 8-12.
- Weiss, Harvey. *Clay, Wood, and Wire*. Addison-Wesley, 1956. 10-14.
- Wyler, Rose, and Gerald Ames. *Magic Secrets*. Illus. by Talivaldis Stubis. Scholarly Book Service, 1971. 7 and up.

# Sports and Games

## Baseball

Dolan, Edward F., Jr. **Great Moments in the World Series.** Triumph Books, 1982. 9 and up.

The focus on important World Series games and on the players who created the excitement of those games makes this a fast-paced, interesting account. Illustrated with photographs of players and key plays.

Murphy, Jim. **Baseball's All-Time All-Stars.** Clarion Books, 1984. 9-12.

The author selects players for two "all-time, all-star" baseball teams. He presents statistics about these famous players, including their major accomplishments. Photographs.

Ritter, Lawrence S. **The Story of Baseball.** William Morrow, 1983. 10 and up.

A very readable description of the history of baseball, tracing the game back to 1846. The account is enlivened by anecdotes about some of the players whose names have been associated with baseball. The descriptions of the fundamentals of baseball are excellent.

Sullivan, George. **Better Baseball for Boys,** rev. ed. Dodd, Mead, 1981. 10 and up.

The combination of a readable text, photographs that match and elaborate on the content, and generally clear diagrams make this a good introduction to the skills necessary to succeed in baseball—for girls as well as boys.

## Bicycling

Coombs, Charles. **BMX: A Guide to Bicycle Motocross.** William Morrow, 1983. 10 and up.

This very readable introduction to bicycle motocross includes information on selecting a bike and preparing for a race as well as a description of a race. Its weakness may be the lack of attention to the many important safety precautions riders should take. The layout and illustrations are good.

Olney, Ross R. **Riding High: Bicycling for Young People.** Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1981. 9-12.

The book provides useful guidelines for selecting and maintaining a bike and contains information on safety and bikes of the future. Clearly written and well illustrated with photographs.

Sullivan, George. **Better BMX Riding and Racing for Boys and Girls.** Dodd, Mead, 1984. 10 and up.

Gives information about appropriate equipment for a bicycle motocross as well as pointers for successful riding in a race. The book is well illustrated with photographs and diagrams, but it is a bit weak in the area of safety precautions.

## Fishing

Randolph, John. **Fishing Basics.** Illus. by Art Seiden, photographs by author. Prentice-Hall, 1981. 12 and up.

Provides basic information on such matters as why people fish, the language of fishing, types of fishing, and basic equipment, including a life vest. Mastery of the clinch knot may require a demonstration, but the explanation of how to cast is clear. As a safety measure, the author does encourage readers to begin fishing with an experienced fisherman. The preface is inspiring, expressing a positive attitude toward fishing—the excitement of it and its connection to the natural world. The book contains an index and glossary, but both are in small print and are a strain to read.

Roberts, Charles P., and George F. Roberts. **Fishing for Fun: A Freshwater Guide.** Illus. by Virgil Beck. Dillon Press, 1984. 10 and up.

A complete guide to fishing, illustrated with diagrams and photographs. The book covers equipment, bait and lures, where and when to fish, and how to clean the catch. There's more here than many readers will need or want to know, but the glossary of knot tying and the appendix make it a useful book.

**Riding**

Haney, Lynn. **Show Rider**. Photographs by Bruce Curtis. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1982. 9-12.

An interesting text provides solid information about the training and competition of show riding and includes definitions of terms in a glossary. Curtis's excellent photographs capture the tensions and joys associated with this exciting competitive sport.

Tinkelman, Murray. **Cowgirl**. Greenwillow Books, 1984. 9-11.

Good photographs complement a spare text in this description of a young girl preparing for and participating in a barrel race. Readers who are unfamiliar with this event must read the preface for a description of it.

Tinkelman, Murray. **Rodeo: The Great American Sport**. Greenwillow Books, 1982. 10 and up.

With many photographs and a brief text, the author portrays the various rodeo events and the training required for them. Those interested in horses or the rodeo should enjoy this pictorial representation of "the great American sport."

**Running**

Sullivan, George. **Better Cross-Country Running for Boys and Girls**. Dodd, Mead, 1983. 10 and up.

Although this text seems to be targeted for high school students, the information and easy-to-read prose style should make it worthwhile reading for anyone interested in long-distance running. Along with a brief background on the sport, the author covers equipment, warming up, form, aspects of races and the course, training, and how to improve. Photographs.

Sullivan, George. **Better Track for Girls**. Dodd, Mead, 1981. 10 and up.

The focus of this book is high school track, but the format and text should be simple enough and informative for upper-grade elementary students interested in the sport. It gives a good general introduction to competitive events, explaining techniques, strate-



gies, and exercises for each. The text is accompanied by a number of helpful black-and-white photographs.

### **Other Sports**

Berger, Melvin. **Sports: A First Reference Book**. Illus. by Anne Canevari Green. Franklin Watts, 1983. 10 and up.

A useful collection of descriptions of athletic terms and sporting events and information about outstanding athletes. Photographs and diagrams.

Coombs, Charles. **Be a Winner in Windsurfing**. William Morrow, 1982. 10 and up.

Written for the novice and for experienced windsurfers, the book provides a wide coverage of topics and explanations, including a short history, types of sailboards, assembling, rules, and surfing techniques. The glossary and index will help readers locate information since the chapters, unfortunately, have no subdivisions. Photographs and a few line drawings supplement the text.

Jauréguiberry, Martine. **The Wonderful Rainy Week: A Book of Indoor Games**. Illus. by Satomi Ichikawa. Philomel Books, 1981. 5-8.

A week's worth of indoor games presented in story form—from counting games to dress-up ideas. There is just enough information to keep little ones busy without overwhelming them. Refreshing full-color illustrations.

Kalb, Jonah, and Laura Kalb. **The Easy Ice Skating Book**. Illus. by Sandy Kossin. Houghton Mifflin, 1981. 7-10.

A simple, clearly illustrated guide to ice skating. The book includes a number of safety tips as well as information on equipment and guidance in performing simple and more complex movements on ice.

Liptak, Karen. **Aerobics Basics**. Illus. by Janet D'Amato. Prentice-Hall, 1983. 8-12.

Provides useful information about the benefits of aerobic exercises as well as good nutritional guidance and the importance of monitoring one's pulse while exercising. Though some technical descriptions may be difficult for children to comprehend, the exercises themselves are fun and can be easily followed. The illustrations

are particularly helpful in demonstrating movements. Suggestions are included for musical accompaniment; but since they are all pop music selections, they may quickly become outdated.

Liss, Howard. **The Giant Book of More Strange But True Sports Stories.** Illus. by Joe Mathieu. Random House, 1983. 8 and up.

Short sport anecdotes in a "believe-it-or-not" style that young fans should enjoy and find informative. The book is interesting to read and contains light touches of humor. Unfortunately, the stories concentrate on male exploits in the sports world.

Murphy, Jim. **The Indy 500.** Clarion Books, 1983. 9 and up.

A close-up look at the Indy 500. The book gives attention to the maintenance of a racing car as well as to the skills needed by drivers. There is a good discussion of safety features of the cars and the driver's equipment. Photographs highlight the excitement of the race.

Slocombe, Lorna. **Sailing Basics.** Illus. by Art Seiden; photographs by Vick Owens. Prentice-Hall, 1982. 9-12.

Complete coverage of sailing basics for beginning sailors, including explanations of equipment and clothes, rules, types of sailboats, sailing techniques and maneuvers, and a short history. The table of contents, index, and glossary make this an easy-to-use reference book, as do the photographs and line drawings.

Sotol, Donald J. **Encyclopedia Brown's Book of Wacky Sports.** Illus. by Ted Enik. William Morrow, 1984. 9-12.

A funny and interesting account of strange happenings in the sports world. This is a good collection of information for the trivia buff.

Sullivan, George. **Better Weight Training for Boys.** Photographs by Ann Hagen Griffiths. Dodd, Mead, 1983. 11 and up.

An accurate introduction to weight training for beginners. Equipment, safety, and the development of an individual program are discussed. The text and photographs clarify the basic lifting techniques.

Willcox, Isobel. **Acrobats and Ping-Pong.** Dodd, Mead, 1981. 9-12.

A fine reference book of Chinese games, sports, and amusements. The book is also notable for its clear descriptions of life in contem-

porary China. It is well organized and illustrated with numerous photographs.

### Additional Sports and Games Books

- Bunning, Jim, Whitey Ford, Mickey Mantle, and Willie Mays. *Grand Slam: The Secrets of Power Baseball*. Viking Press, 1965. 12 and up.
- Coombs, Charles. *Drag Racing*. William Morrow, 1970. 10-14.
- Epstein, Sam, and Beryl Epstein. *The Game of Baseball*. Illus. by Hobe Hays. Garrard, 1965. 10-12.
- Hano, Arnold. *Greatest Giants of Them All*. C. P. Putnam's Sons, 1967. 10 and up.
- Howard, Elston. *Catching*. Illus. by Robert Osonitsch. Viking Press, 1966. 12 and up.
- Lindsay, Sally. *Figure Skating*. Rand McNally, 1963. 11 and up.
- Lipsyte, Robert. *Assignment: Sports*. Harper & Row, 1970. 12 and up.
- Pickens, Richard. *How to Punt, Pass and Kick*. Illus. by Fran Chauncey. Random House, 1965. 12 and up.
- Van Riper, Guernsey, Jr. *The Game of Basketball*. Garrard, 1967. 8-11.

# Holidays

## Christmas

Bierhorst, John, translator. **Spirit Child: A Story of the Nativity.** Illus. by Barbara Cooney. William Morrow, 1984. 6-12.

This retelling of the story of the birth of Jesus is a mingling of the Bible story told by Christian missionaries with Aztec mythology, a mingling of the poetic language of the Aztecs with that of the Bible. The richly descriptive, jubilant prose is enhanced by the vibrant illustrations, which picture the events from an Aztec point of view. Jesus, the angels, Mary, and Joseph are Aztec. The designs and colors are those of the Aztecs and their desert and mountain environment.

Carlson, Natalie Savage. **Surprise in the Mountains.** Illus. by Elise Primavera. Harper & Row, 1983. 6-9.

A story of sharing between a preceptor and the animals at Christmas. Descriptive phrases make this a good read-aloud story. Soft pencil drawings, with muted browns and golds, enhance each page.

Christian, Mary Blount. **Sebastian [Super Sleuth] and the Santa Claus Caper.** Illus. by Lisa McCue. Macmillan, 1984. 7-11.

Sebastian the hound solves the mystery of a fire alarm system that goes off without reason, threatening to put a store owner out of business. The Christmas-shopping setting adds a seasonal interest to this amusing story.

Corwin, Judith Hoffman. **Christmas Fun.** Illus. by author. Julian Messner, 1982. All ages.

A collection of Christmas activities, including ideas for an Advent calendar, foods, decorations, gifts, and cards. Helpful patterns are included, and directions are concise. Practical ideas for children of all ages and a useful book for teachers.

Cuyler, Margery. **The All-Around Christmas Book**. Illus. by Corbett Jones. Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1982. All ages.

A wealth of information about all aspects of this joyful holiday, including a discussion of the origin and symbolism of Christmas and suggestions for Christmas crafts and recipes. This well-designed book includes a table of contents, index, and list of suggested readings. Black-and-white illustrations, all clear and helpful, complement the text.

Davies, Valentine. **Miracle on 34th Street**. Illus. by Tomie de Paola. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1984. 10 and up.

An old story, reissued this time with illustrations. The tale, well-known from the movie, is timely and lends itself to oral reading. Nineteen full-color illustrations catch the spirit of the times as well as the message of the story.

de Paola, Tomie. **The First Christmas: A Festive Pop-Up Book**. Illus. by author. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1984. All ages.

Six nativity scenes fold down into a three-dimensional stage effect. Each scene also has at least one moving part. The star and angels are particularly effective. The text on each fold-down page briefly paraphrases the events. Definitely a book for individuals or a small group.

de Paola, Tomie, reteller. **The Story of the Three Wise Kings**. Illus. by reteller. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1983. 4-8.

A richly stylized, full-color version of the Christmas story focusing on the journey of the kings from the East to Bethlehem and their return home by a different route. The artwork draws on the biblical story, religious symbolism, Eastern architecture, and art from the second century to the Romanesque era. (Picture book)

Dickens, Charles. **A Christmas Carol**. Illus. by Trina Schart Hyman. Holiday House, 1983. 9 and up.

An exquisitely beautiful edition of this classic Christmas story. The text is identical to Dickens's first edition, published in 1843, with the exception of the inclusion of some changes that were made in the second edition and that are referenced in the back of the book. Along with this authentic text are the wonderfully detailed illustrations. From the foggy street scenes teeming with busy people to the marvelous specters who haunt Scrooge, Hyman has captured a rich slice of the historical setting and the spirit of the tale.

Gammell, Stephen. **Wake Up, Bear . . . It's Christmas!** Illus. by author. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1981. 4-7.

A bear interrupts his winter sleep to celebrate Christmas, only to be joined by a mysterious bearded man dressed in red. They pass a merry evening of conversation and song, topped off by a ride in the old man's sleigh. The story is light fun, though the rhyming dialogue is a bit distracting. The illustrations are touched by warmth and humor.

Gantos, Jack. **Rotten Ralph's Rotten Christmas.** Illus. by Nicole Rubel. Houghton Mifflin, 1984. 4-8.

Ralph the cat is an incorrigible but likable bully owned by Sarah. Young children will identify with his jealousy and nasty behavior toward Percy, a visiting cat. Vibrant, detailed illustrations exaggerate the slapstick humor of a lively text.

Garfield, Leon. **Fair's Fair.** Illus. by S. D. Schindler. Doubleday, 1983. 6-10.

A Christmas story in the English tradition of Charles Dickens, filled with mystery and a sense of foreboding that reaches a climax with the happy and unexpected ending. Full-color illustrations picture a timeless England in winter and contrast the grandness of the mansion with the poor waifs. (Picture book)

Gay, Michel. **The Christmas Wolf.** Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1983. 4-8.

A fast-moving and very funny story with a plot that is full of surprises as father wolf sets out to find Christmas presents for his family. In a very roundabout way, he succeeds. (Picture book)

Haywood, Carolyn. **Santa Claus Forever!** Illus. by Glenys and Victor Anibus. William Morrow, 1983. 3-7.

Santa has human qualities, even though he is very special. Children will appreciate his predicaments when he decides to retire and will enjoy the fast-moving plot and the predictable and satisfying ending. Brightly colored illustrations of a hard-working, droll Santa will appeal to readers. A young child might notice the discrepancy between the text and illustrations when Santa is described as having dye and paint in his beard, yet it is pictured as clean. (Picture book)

Hill, Eric. **Spot's First Christmas.** Illus. by author. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1983. 2-5.

Children will be entertained by the continuing misadventures of Spot, the toddler dog, who is preparing for Santa's arrival. The graphically simple, brightly colored illustrations, the boldly lettered text, and the flaps to open on each page make this an appealing book to be read to a young child. (Picture book)

Hoban, Lillian. **It's Really Christmas.** Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1982. 6-11.

The story of Christmas as seen through the eyes of a family of attic mice whose child, named Gamey Joe because he is crippled, longs for Christmas Day. Without moralizing, the author tells the true meaning of Christmas. Each page in the small book is wrapped in a piece of ribbon. The illustrations of life in the attic from a mouse's perspective will interest children.

Jeffers, Susan. **Silent Night.** Illus. by author. E. P. Dutton, 1984. All ages.

Beautiful framed paintings develop the sense of awe and joy evoked by the words to this favorite Christmas hymn by Joseph Mohr. (Picture book)

Knight, Hilary. **Hilary Knight's The Twelve Days of Christmas.** Illus. by author. Macmillan, 1981. 5 and up.

This Old English folksong is illustrated with animals as the characters. Full-page, soft pastel illustrations contain much detail of getting ready for an old-fashioned Christmas. A mischievous raccoon adds interest to the illustrations and is a part of the surprise ending. A book to enjoy more than once.

Livingston, Myra Cohn, compiler. **Christmas Poems.** Illus. by Trina Schart Hyman. Holiday House, 1984. 5-12.

A joyous collection of both classic poems, such as Clement Moore's "A Visit from St. Nicholas," and new poems by contemporary poets John Ciardi, Norma Farber, X. J. Kennedy, J. Patrick Lewis, David McCord, and Valerie Worth. Secular and religious poems are included. Illustrations colored in red and spruce green have borders, which will give young readers the feeling of peeking into or out of windows, always at wondrous Christmas scenes.

Noble, Trinka Hakes. **Apple Tree Christmas.** Illus. by author. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1984. 3-7.

A nostalgic story of Christmas on the farm in the late 1800s. The

harshness of weather and hard work is contrasted with the close family ties and homey Christmas customs. Watercolor illustrations in full color have an old-fashioned look, enhancing the story of long ago. (Picture book)

Olson, Arielle North. **Hurry Home, Grandma!** Illus. by Lydia Dabovich. E. P. Dutton, 1984. 5-9.

A grandma who is off exploring in Africa hurried to get home for Christmas, while her grandchildren wait and wonder if she'll make it. Beautiful, brightly colored illustrations capture the essence of holiday preparations and portray the humor of Grandma's predicament.

Parker, Nancy Winslow. **The Christmas Camel.** Illus. by author. Dodd, Mead, 1983. 4-7.

In the third "Uncle Clyde" book, Charlie receives an enchanted camel for Christmas. Uncle Clyde's letter includes more than just a few facts about ordinary camels; it hints at the possibility of a magical Christmas journey for Charlie. Clear pastel drawings carry the story for a child who can "read" pictures.

Pearson, Tracey Campbell. **We Wish You a Merry Christmas: A Traditional Christmas Carol.** Illus. by author. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1983. 5-9.

Humorous, full-color cartoonlike illustrations accompany the text of the familiar Christmas song. Words and music are included at the end.

Prelutsky, Jack. **It's Christmas.** Illus. by Marilyn Hafner. Greenwillow Books, 1981. 3-9.

A lighthearted collection of a dozen secular Christmas poems about related subjects that children find funny. The strong rhythms and rhymes and the childlike images will appeal. Cartoon-styled illustrations in red and green are complementary to the poetry. Children's Choices.

Spier, Peter. **Peter Spier's Christmas!** Illus. by author. Doubleday, 1983. All ages.

A wordless picture book that follows a family through the Christmas season, depicting the decorations, the food, and the presents. Children will marvel with adults at new details discovered at each new look. A contemporary setting (notice the cut-rate grocery



store) with just the right traditions carefully preserved. (Picture book)

Stock, Catherine. **Sampson, the Christmas Cat.** Illus. by author. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1984. 7-10.

A slight plot but, nevertheless, a warm little Christmas story involving a cat who came in search of turkey and stayed. Watercolor and ink illustrations add some suspense to the tale.

Trimby, Elisa. **The Christmas Story.** Illus. by author. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1983. All ages.

Soft pastel illustrations depict the story of the Nativity from the annunciation to the flight into Egypt, with the text taken directly from the Authorized (King James) Version of the Bible. The illustrations give a new approach to scenes of the Nativity, yet they accurately depict the events, locale, and time period. Strong characterization is shown in the details of the faces and hands of people.

Vincent, Gabrielle. **Merry Christmas, Ernest and Celestine.** Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1984. 4-8.

The true spirit of Christmas is captured in this delightful tale of two little mice who, despite their poverty, are able to use their ingenuity to have a Christmas party for their friends. Lovely full-color illustrations accompany the text.

Willson, Robina Beckles. **Merry Christmas: Children at Christmas-time around the World.** Illus. by Satomi Ichikawa. Philomel Books, 1983. 6-12.

A book that children will love to read or have read to them. Christmas tales, traditions, songs, recipes, and directions for decorations are accompanied by colorful paintings.

Winthrop, Elizabeth, adapter. **A Child Is Born: The Christmas Story.** Illus. by Charles Mikolaycak. Holiday House, 1983. All ages.

With a simple text adapted from the Authorized (King James) Version of the Bible and with watercolors resplendent in rich, colorful details, the story of the birth of Christ unfolds with elegance and beauty. The text is biblical in its cadence and is attractively framed to overlap the full-page illustrations that serve as the focal points for the storytelling. The illustrations, with their forceful use of color and gesture, help to explore the humanity and historical context of the story, transforming a familiar tale into one that is "new" and meaningful. (Picture book)

**Halloween**

Barkin, Carol, and Elizabeth James. **The Scary Halloween Costume Book**. Illus. by Katherine Coville. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1983. 6-12.

A useful how-to book for twelve different Halloween costumes, including Dracula, a werewolf, and an unknown terror. Directions are clear and easy to read, and children can work with the ideas that are presented.

Corwin, Judith Hoffman. **Halloween Fun**. Julian Messner, 1983. 8-12.

Describes Halloween customs and includes directions for making a good variety of Halloween costumes, masks, decorations, and foods. The instructions are generally easy to follow despite somewhat cluttered pages.

Cuyler, Margery. **Sir William and the Pumpkin Monster**. Illus. by Marsha Winborn. Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1984. 5-9.

When a friendly ghost tries to scare the family he lives with, he meets with unexpected results and adventures that will amuse young readers. Detailed black, white, and orange full-page illustrations add to the humor. A secondary story, illustrated in the borders of the pages, effectively adds to the fun and encourages readers to study the pages in greater depth.

Davis, Maggie S. **Rickety Witch**. Illus. by Kay Chora. Holiday House, 1984. 5-8.

A humorous story in which a kind old witch outwits two mean young witches and treats the town children to "doodads" for Halloween. Both the text and the black-and-white line illustrations are full of movement and complement one another. Unique words and phrases will appeal to listeners, making the book good for reading aloud.

Gibbons, Gail. **Halloween**. Illus. by author. Holiday House, 1984. 3-7.

Why do we celebrate Halloween? Where did the name *jack-o'-lantern* come from? These and many other children's questions are interestingly answered in this book about a favorite holiday. Boldly colored illustrations feature all the symbols of the celebration.

Glovach, Linda. **The Little Witch's Carnival Book**. Illus. by author. Prentice-Hall, 1982. 8-12.

Suggestions for a Halloween carnival include directions for costumes, booths, games, and refreshments. The book would be equally helpful for a parent or teacher looking for Halloween activities for a home or classroom party. The text is for older children. Illustrations help to clarify directions.

Hoban, Lillian. **Arthur's Halloween Costume.** Illus. by author. Harper & Row, 1984. 4-8.

Arthur, his sister Violet, and all his friends are back again in a story that children will find both funny and realistic in dealing with a common problem: what should I be for Halloween? Arthur's dilemma has a winning solution. Comical illustrations add to the fun.

Hoffman, Phyllis. **Happy Halloween!** Illus. by Tom Huffman. Aladdin Books, 1982. 7-10.

These directions for Halloween decorations, games, and foods are enlivened by information about the history of Halloween, traced from its beginning as a Celtic festival to its present-day traditions.

Johnston, Tony. **The Vanishing Pumpkin.** Illus. by Tomie de Paola. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1983. 6-9.

It's Halloween and the pumpkin belonging to a 700-year-old woman and an 800-year-old man has vanished. As they search, they meet and trick a ghoul, a rascalion, and a varmint, but with no success. Rollicking fun brightened by colorful cartoon illustrations. Children's Choices. (Picture book)

Johnston, Tony. **The Witch's Hat.** Illus. by Margot Tomes. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1984. 5-8.

Humor and magic abound as a witch tries to get her hat back after it falls into her cooking pot. Rhyming words and repetitious phrases make this a good book for reading aloud. Full-color illustrations add to the humor. Readers could miss the final punch line of the story, which seems to end on the last page of the text, but there is another page to turn to for the humorous and appropriately illustrated conclusion.

Kessler, Ethel, and Leonard Kessler. **Grandpa Witch and the Magic Doobelator.** Illus. by authors. Macmillan, 1981. 5-8.

A humorous change of pace with a grandpa witch who helps his two grandchildren to learn some Halloween tricks with surprising

results. The rhythmic cadence makes the text enjoyable for reading aloud even though it is a Ready-to-Read book. Simple blue, black, and orange illustrations.

Marks, Burton, and Rita Marks. **The Spook Book**. Illus. by Lisa Campbell Ernst. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1981. 5-10.

Directions for Halloween decorations, refreshments, and tricks are given in a text that mature second-grade readers will find easy enough to read; younger ones might need help. All activities are simple, requiring nothing more than ordinary household items. The objects can be made with minimal adult supervision, and the text indicates when adults are needed. Illustrations are helpful.

Peck Robert Newton. **Trig or Treat**. Illus. by Pamela Johnson. Yearling Books, 1983. 9-12.

While at times it seems as though it is the author speaking and not Trig, the antics of this plucky heroine and her Sunday School cronies make delightful reading in a hilariously understated rendition of putting together a Sunday School Halloween pageant.

Segal, Joyce. **The Scariest Witch in Wellington Towers**. Illus. by Margot Apple. Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1981. 6-8.

The only girl her age in the apartment building, Bonny's the scariest witch for Halloween. What could be twice as much fun? The surprise that greets her at the apartment of a new family in the building! The fun-loving adults in this easy-to-read story make Halloween special. Soft pencil drawings add detail and interest.

### **Jewish Holidays**

Adler, David A. **A Picture Book of Hanukkah**. Illus. by Linda Heller. Holiday House, 1982. 7-10.

A simple description of the history of the Hanukkah celebration and what it signifies. The book includes a brief discussion of lighting the menorah candles and other customs of the holiday. (Picture book)

Adler, David A. **A Picture Book of Jewish Holidays**. Illus. by Linda Heller. Holiday House, 1981. 8 and up.

Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Hanukkah, Purim, and Passover are a few of the Jewish holidays included in this book of facts. Expla-

nations are simple but are complete and satisfying. The illustrations are warm and add depth and mood to this excellent informational book. (Picture book)

Adler, David A. **A Picture Book of Passover.** Illus. by Linda Heller. Holiday House, 1982. 8 and up.

The use of dialogue throughout makes this account of the Israelites' flight from slavery interesting as well as informative. The seder is explained, as are other customs related to Passover. (Picture book)

Burns, Marilyn. **The Hanukkah Book.** Illus. by Martha Weston. Four Winds Press, 1981. 7-12.

All aspects of this joyous holiday are presented in a logical progression from the story of Hanukkah to foods to eat, presents to make, and games to play. A very even-handed discussion of the different feelings some Jewish families have about celebrating Christmas is also included. Black-and-white illustrations and diagrams give life to the text and are especially helpful with directions for gift making and recipes.

Chaikin, Miriam. **Light Another Candle: The Story and Meaning of Hanukkah.** Illus. by Demi. Clarion Books, 1981. 9-12.

A good treatment of the historical background for this festival, with emphasis on its religious aspects. The book includes a description of the customs for celebrating the holiday as well.

Chaikin, Miriam. **Shake a Palm Branch: The Story and Meaning of Sukkot.** Illus. by Marvin Friedman. Clarion Books, 1984. 7-11.

A simple explanation of the joyous harvest festival of Sukkot, what it means to Jews, and how they celebrate it around the world. Black-and-white illustrations are occasionally colored with wheat gold, carrying on the symbolism as well as giving meaning to the holiday traditions. Glossary of terms and index.

Cohen, Barbara. **Here Come the Purim Players!** Illus. by Beverly Brodsky. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1984. 6-9.

The story of Purim, one of the most joyous of Jewish holidays, is told through the enactment of the Purim Play by the Jews of the Prague ghetto. A happy combination of Jewish history, Yiddish customs, and fine storytelling. Illustrations in jewel-like colors are composed of thousands of tiny lines, giving the impression of

movement and atmosphere. A perfect complement to the lively story of Queen Esther.

Cohen, Barbara, reteller. **Yussel's Prayer: A Yom Kippur Story.** Illus. by Michael J. Deraney. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1981. 7-10

Yussel, an orphan cowherd, must spend the holiest of Jewish holidays out with the cows instead of in the synagogue. A story that contrasts the rich and poor, the inward thought and outward appearance, and those who grow and those who do not. Softly shaded pencil drawings show nineteenth-century Poland. Teachers' Choices.

Drucker, Malka. **Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur: Sweet Beginnings.** Illus. by Bloom Hoban. Holiday House, 1981. 9-13.

A direct and easily understandable discussion of the history of two major Jewish holidays and of their religious significance. Crafts, recipes, prayers, and "New Year fun" are also included. A glossary of terms and comprehensive index make this a complete resource book. Black-and-white photographs and drawings picture many customs and ceremonies. Other books in the Jewish Holidays series are *Hanukkah: Eight Nights, Eight Lights*; *Passover: A Season of Freedom*; *Shabbat: A Peaceful Island*; and *Sukkot: A Time to Rejoice*.

Hirsh, Marilyn. **I Love Hanukkah.** Illus. by author. Holiday House, 1984. 3-6.

A quiet story of how and why one family celebrates Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights. Historical background is told to the little boy by his grandfather in a way easily understandable to all children. Pictures in reds, yellows, and brown are simply drawn, expressing the warmth of this family holiday. (Picture book)

### Thanksgiving

Cohen, Barbara. **Molly's Pilgrim.** Illus. by Michael J. Deraney. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1983. 7-9.

Molly, an eight-year-old immigrant from Russia, is the brunt of classmates' jokes about her speech and clothes. It is her doll, made for a Thanksgiving project, that teaches everyone that Molly is really a pilgrim, too. Strong black-and-white drawings convey the strength of the story. Children's Choices.

Gibbons, Gail. **Thanksgiving Day.** Illus. by author. Holiday House, 1983. 4-7.

This simplified history of the holiday will provide just enough information for young readers, relating how we celebrate the holiday today to the first Thanksgiving. Boldly outlined, brightly colored illustrations amplify the concise text. (Picture book)

Prelutsky, Jack. **It's Thanksgiving.** Illus. by Marylin Hafner. Greenwillow Books, 1982. 4-8.

A collection of twelve original, humorous Thanksgiving poems for young children either to read alone or to enjoy listening to in a group. The poems are short; the topics are familiar, everyday Thanksgiving activities. Illustrations add to the humor.

### Valentine's Day

Bunting, Eve. **The Valentine Bears.** Illus. by Jan Brett. Clarion Books, 1983. 3-5.

Mrs. Bear sets her alarm for February 14th but has a little trouble awakening Mr. Bear from his long winter's nap. Each has hidden away special valentine treats for a celebration. The three-color drawings illustrate the coziness they share on their first Valentine's Day together. A pleasant book in both story and pictures.

Corwin, Judith Hoffman. **Valentine Fun.** Illus. by author. Julian Messner, 1982. 6-12.

Directions for valentines, decorations, and food are given in the clearly written text and easily understood illustrations. Patterns are included where needed. The book would be good for individual or classroom use.

Kessel, Joyce K. **Valentine's Day.** Illus. by Karen Ritz. Caroi rhoda Books, 1981. 5-8.

A look at the history of Valentine's Day and its customs, told in an easy-reading style that limits the depth but that conveys accurate information. Generously illustrated in black and white with red used for the accent. The details in the artwork will attract and hold children's attention.

Modell, Frank. **One Zillion Valentines.** Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1981. 4-8.

Milton and Marvin plan a way to give everyone in the neighborhood a valentine so that they can get many in return. Humorous drawings enhance a casual story about enterprising boys. (Picture book)

Sharmat, Marjorie Weinman. **The Best Valentine in the World.** Illus. by Lilian Obligado. Holiday House, 1982. 3-5.

Purple and green valentines! Ferdinand and Florette try to make each other the very best of valentines, but they run into trouble once February 14th finally rolls around. The text and two-color pencil drawings work well at conveying the tender feelings that the two foxes share. (Picture book)

### Other Holidays

Balian, Lorna. **Mother's Mother's Day.** Illus. by author. Abingdon Press, 1982. 3-7.

The procession of so many mouse mothers will appeal to children, as will the appearance of a menacing cat whose paw reaches into the page, sending the mothers scurrying. Illustrations in soft hues show flora and mice in a natural setting. Mice are clothed in sunbonnets and "country clothes," adding a humorous, human touch. The small book fits the subject matter, enhancing the largeness of the cat.

Giblin, James Cross. **Fireworks, Picnics, and Flags.** Illus. by Ursula Arndt. Clarion Books, 1983. 9-12.

A well-organized presentation of information about the historical events associated with the Fourth of July as well as a discussion of related music and visual symbols, such as the eagle and the Liberty Bell. An interesting addition is a chronology from 1776 to 1982, telling of important events that have taken place on July fourth.

Modell, Frank. **Goodbye Old Year, Hello New Year.** Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1984. 5-7.

With deadpan humor, Modell continues to chronicle the adventures of Marvin and Milton, the ingenious heroes of *One Zillion Valentines*. In this holiday book, the two, who love celebrations, make elaborate preparations for a midnight New Year's celebration. When they accidentally sleep past the appointed hour, the two boys decide that a predawn celebration is okay. The adult reactions to this noisy event are appropriately funny. Illustrations are full of humorous little touches. (Picture book)



Perl, Lila. **Candies, Cakes, and Donkey Tails: Birthday Symbols and Celebrations.** Illus. by Victoria de Larrea. Clarion Books, 1984. 8-11.

Discusses the significance of birthday symbols and customs and includes information on birthday horoscopes, birthstones, and celebrations in other countries. A very interesting and often entertaining look at birthday traditions. Table of contents and index.

Perl, Lila, and Alma Flor Ada. **Piñatas and Paper Flowers/Piñatas y flores de papel: Holidays of the Americas in English and Spanish.** Illus. by Victoria de Larrea. Clarion Books, 1983. 9-12.

Presents information about the history of eight Hispanic holidays and describes some of the ways they are celebrated. A special feature of the book is text in both English and Spanish, presented on facing pages.

Stevenson, James. **The Great Big Especially Beautiful Easter Egg.** Illus. by author. Greenwillow Books, 1983. 4-8.

Grandpa's tale of his search for a special Easter egg is full of exaggerations and implausible happenings, which will keep young listeners entranced. The conclusion is most satisfying. Watercolor illustrations, many in cartoon-style format. (Picture book)

### Additional Holiday Books

Adshead, Gladys. *Brownies—It's Christmas.* Walker, 1955. 5-7.

Andersen, Hans Christian. *The Little Match Girl.* Illus. by Blair Lent. Houghton Mifflin, 1968. 6-10.

Balian, Lorna. *Humbug Witch.* Abingdon Press, 1965. 5-7.

Branley, Franklyn M. *The Christmas Sky.* Illus. by Blair Lent. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1966. 8-11.

Bright, Robert. *Georgie's Halloween.* Doubleday, 1958. 4-8.

Brown, Margaret Wise. *Christmas in the Barn.* Illus. by Barbara Cooney. Thomas Y. Crowell, 1949. 5-9.

Brown, Margaret Wise. *The Golden Egg Book.* Illus. by Leonard Weisgard. Golden Books, 1947. 5-7.

Burch, Robert. *Renfroe's Christmas.* Illus. by Rocco Negri. Viking Press, 1968. 7-10.

Carlson, Natalie Savage. *Befana's Gift.* Illus. by Robert Quackenbush. Harper & Row, 1969. 8-11.

Caudill, Rebecca. *A Certain Small Shepherd.* Illus. by William Pene du Bois. Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1965. 6 and up.

- Coombs, Patricia. *Dorrie and the Halloween Plot*. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1976. 6-10.
- Dalglish, Alice. *The Fourth of July Story*. Illus. by Marie Nonnast. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1956. 8-12.
- de Paola, Tomie. *The Clown of God*. Illus. by author. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1978. 6-10.
- Domanska, Janina. *Din Dan Don: It's Christmas*. Greenwillow Books, 1975. 4-8.
- Embry, Margaret. *The Blue-Nosed Witch*. Illus. by Carl Rose. Holiday House, 1956. 6-9.
- Ets, Marie Hall, and Aurora Labastida. *Nine Days to Christmas*. Illus. by Marie Hall Ets. Viking Press, 1959. 4-8.
- Hoban, Lillian. *Arthur's Christmas Cookies*. Harper & Row, 1972. 4-8.
- Hopkins, Lee Bennett, compiler. *Hey-How for Halloween*. Illus. by Janet McCaffery. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1974. 6 and up.
- Kahl, Virginia. *Plum Pudding for Christmas*. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1956. 4-9.
- Keats, Ezra Jack. *The Little Drummer Boy*. Illus. by author. Macmillan, 1968. 4 and up.
- Lindgren, Astrid. *Christmas in the Stable*. Illus. by Harald Wiberg. Coward-McCann, 1962. 4-8.
- Menotti, Gian-Carlo (adapted by Francis Frost). *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. Illus. by Roger Duvoisin. McGraw-Hill, 1952. 10 and up.
- Milhous, Katherine. *The Egg Tree*. Illus. by author. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1950. 6-8.
- Moore, Clement C. *The Night before Christmas*. Illus. by Tasha Tudor Rand McNally, 1975. 4 and up.
- Robbins, Ruth. *Baboushka and the Three Kings*. Illus. by Nicolas Sidjakov. Parnassus Press, 1960. 5-9.
- Robinson, Barbara. *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. Illus. by Judith Gwyn Brown. Harper & Row, 1972. 8 and up.
- Von Jüchen, Aurel (translated by Cornelia Schaeffer). *The Holy Night*. Illus. by Celestino Piatti. Atheneum, 1968. 5-8.

# Professional Books

## Authors' Essays and Autobiographical Material

- Chambers, Aidan. *Introducing Books to Children*, 2d ed. Horn Book, 1983.
- Gág, Wanda. *Growing Pains: Diaries and Drawings for the Years 1908-1917*. Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1984.
- Livingston, Myra Cohn. *The Child as Poet: Myth or Reality?* Horn Book, 1984.
- Morse, Jane Crowell, editor. *Beatrix Potter's Americans: Selected Letters*. Horn Book, 1982.
- Paterson, Katherine. *Gates of Excellence: On Reading and Writing Books for Children*. Lodestar Books, 1981.
- Townsend, John Rowe. *Written for Children: An Outline of English-Language Children's Literature*, 2d ed. J. B. Lippincott, 1983.
- Tolen, Jane. *Touch Magic: Fantasy, Faerie and Folklore in the Literature of Childhood*. Philomel Books, 1981.

## Bibliographies and Book Selection

- Association for Childhood Education International (edited by Sylvia Sunderlin). *Bibliography of Books for Children*, rev. ed. Association for Childhood Education International, 1983.
- Azarnoff, Pat. *Health, Illness and Disability: A Guide to Books for Children and Young Adults*. R. R. Bowker, 1983.
- Bauer, Caroline Feller. *This Way to Books*. Wilson, 1983.
- Bernstein, Joanne E. *Books to Help Children Cope with Separation and Loss*, 2d ed. R. R. Bowker, 1983.
- Bracken, Jeanne, and Sharon Wigutoff (with Ilene Baker). *Books for Today's Young Readers: An Annotated Bibliography of Recommended Fiction for Ages 10-14*. Feminist Press, 1981.
- Carr, Jo. *Beyond Fact. Nonfiction for Children and Young People*. American Library Association, 1982.

- Chambers, Joanna F. Hey, *Miss! You Got a Book for Me? A Model Multicultural Resource Collection*, rev. ed. Austin Bilingual Language Editions, 1981.
- Children's Science Books. Chicago Museum of Science and Industry, 1982.
- Heins, Ethel L., compiler. *Contemporary Classics: 30 Children's Books for Adults*. Horn Book, 1982.
- Hoyle, Karen Nelson. *Danish Children's Literature in English: A Bibliography Excluding H. C. Andersen*. Center for Northwest European Languages and Area Studies, University of Minnesota, 1982.
- Lynn, Ruth Nadelman. *Fantasy for Children*, 2d ed. R. R. Bowker, 1983.
- Peterson, Linda Kauffman, and Marilyn L. Solt. *Newbery and Caldecott Medal and Honor Books: An Annotated Bibliography*. G. K. Hall Reference Books, 1982.
- Quimby, Harriet B., and Margaret Mary Kimmel. *Building a Children's Literature Collection*, rev. ed. Choice, 1983.
- Roginski, James W. *Newbery and Caldecott Medalists and Honor Book Winners: Bibliographies and Resource Material through 1977*. Libraries Unlimited, 1982.
- Rollock, Barbara. *The Black Experience in Children's Books*. New York Public Libraries, 1984.
- Sullivan, George W. B., compiler. *Folk Literature and Children: An Annotated Bibliography of Secondary Materials*. Greenwood Press, 1981.
- Tway, Eileen, editor, and the NCTE Committee on Reading Ladders for Human Relations. *Reading Ladders for Human Relations*, 6th ed. National Council of Teachers of English, 1981.

### Collections

- Andersen, Hans Christian. *The Complete Fairy Tales and Stories*. Anchor Books, 1983.
- Botkin, B. A., editor. *A Treasury of American Folklore: Stories, Ballads, and Traditions of the People*. Outlet Book Company, 1983.
- Cole, Joanna, compiler. *Best-Loved Folktales of the World*. Anchor Books, 1983.
- Demers, Patricia, and Gordon Moyles, editors. *From Instruction to Delight: An Anthology of Children's Literature to 1850*. Oxford University Press, 1982.
- Fadiman, Clifton. *The World Treasury of Children's Literature*. Little, Brown, 1984.

- Grimm, Jakob, and Wilhelm Grimm (translated by Ralph Manheim). *Grimms' Tales for Young and Old: The Complete Stories*. Anchor Books, 1983.
- Mulherin, Jennifer, editor. *Popular Nursery Rhymes*. Grosset & Dunlap, 1983.
- Sutherland, Zena, and Myra Cohn Livingston, compilers. *The Scott, Foresman Anthology of Children's Literature*. Scott, Foresman, 1983.

### Criticism

- Darton, F. J. Harvey. *Children's Books in England: Five Centuries of Social Life*, 3d ed. Cambridge University Press, 1982.
- Egoff, Sheila A. *Thursday's Child: Trends and Patterns in Contemporary Children's Literature*. American Library Association, 1981.
- Haring-Smith, Tori. *A. A. Milne: A Critical Bibliography*. Garland Publishing, 1982.
- Hearne, Betsy. *Choosing Books for Children: A Commonsense Guide*. Delacorte Press, 1981.
- Hearne, Betsy, and Marilyn Kaye, editors. *Celebrating Children's Books: Essays on Children's Literature*. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1981.
- Rees, David. *Painted Desert, Green Shade: Essays on Contemporary Writers for Children*. Horn Book, 1984.
- Sims, Rudine. *Shadow and Substance: Afro-American Experience in Contemporary Children's Fiction*. National Council of Teachers of English, 1982.
- Vandergrift, Kay E. (edited by Jane Anne Hannigan). *Child and Story: The Literary Connection*. Neal-Schuman, 1981.

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- Field, Carolyn W. *Special Collections in Children's Literature*. American Library Association, 1982.
- Kirkpatrick, Daniel, editor. *Twentieth Century Children's Writers*, 2d ed. St. Martin's Press, 1983.
- Livingston, Myra Cohn. *How Pleasant to Know Mr. Lear!* Illus. by Edward Lear. Holiday House, 1982.
- Meyer, Susan E. *A Treasury of the Great Children's Book Illustrators*. Harry N. Abrams, 1983.

**Guides for Parents**

- Butler, Dorothy, and Marie Clay. *Reading Begins at Home: Preparing Children for Reading Before They Go to School*. Heinemann Educational Books, 1982.
- Larrick, Nancy. *A Parent's Guide to Children's Reading*, 5th ed. Westminster Press, 1983.
- Manthorne, Jane, compiler. *Children's Classics: With Lists of Recommended Editions*. Horn Book, 1982.
- Preschool Services and Parent Education Committee, Association for Library Service to Children. *Opening Doors for Preschool Children and Their Parents*, 2d ed. American Library Association, 1981.
- Trelease, Jim. *The Read-Aloud Handbook*. Illus. by Joanne Rathe. Penguin Books, 1982.

**Illustrations and Illustrators**

- Cianciolo, Patricia Jean. *Picture Books for Children*, 2d ed. American Library Association, 1981.
- Engen, Rodney. *Kate Greenaway. A Biography*. Schocken Books, 1981.
- Faunce, S., et al. *Carl Larsson*. Brooklyn Museum, 1982.
- Preiss, Byron, editor. *The Art of Leo and Diane Dillon*. Ballantine Books, 1981.
- Schwartz, Joseph H. *Ways of the Illustrator: Visual Communication in Children's Literature*. American Library Association, 1982.

**Storytelling**

- Colwell, Eileen. *Storytelling*. Bodley Head, 1983.
- Pellowski, Anne. *The Story Vine: A Sourcebook of Unusual and Easy-to-Tell Stories from around the World*. Illus. by Lynn Sweat. Macmillan, 1984.

**Teaching Methods**

- Baker, Donald L. *Functions of Folk and Fairy Tales*. Association for Childhood Education International, 1981.
- Ciani, Alfred J., editor. *Motivating Reluctant Readers*. International Reading Association, 1981.
- Hunt, Mary Alice. *A Multimedia Approach to Children's Literature*, 3d ed. American Library Association, 1983.

- Kimmel, Margaret Mary, and Elizabeth Segel. *For Reading Out Loud! A Guide to Sharing Books with Children*. Dell, 1984.
- Lamme, Linda Leonard, editor, and the NCTE Committee on Literature in the Elementary Language Arts. *Learning to Love Literature: Preschool through Grade 3*. National Council of Teachers of English, 1981.
- Polette, Nancy. *Picture Books for Gifted Programs*. Scarecrow Press, 1981.
- Sloyer, Shirlee. *Readers Theatre. Story Dramatization in the Classroom*. National Council of Teachers of English, 1982.

### Textbooks

- Cullinan, Bernice E. (with Mary K. Karer and Arlene Pillar). *Literature and the Child*. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1981.
- Lukens, Rebecca. *A Critical Handbook of Children's Literature*, 2d ed. Scott, Foresman, 1981.
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- Bader, Barbara. *American Picturebooks from Noah's Ark to the Beast Within*. Macmillan, 1976.
- Bettelheim, Bruno. *The Uses of Enchantment: The Meaning and Importance of Fairy Tales*. Alfred A. Knopf, 1976.
- Blishen, Edward, editor. *The Thorny Paradise: Writers on Writing for Children*. Kestrel, 1975.
- Blount, Margaret. *Animal Land: The Creatures of Children's Fiction*. William Morrow, 1974.
- Ciardi, John, and Miller Williams. *How Does a Poem Mean?*, 2d ed. Houghton Mifflin, 1975.
- Cook, Elizabeth. *The Ordinary and the Fabulous: An Introduction to Legends and Fairy Tales*, 2d ed. Cambridge University Press, 1976.

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- Jenkinson, Edward B. *Censors in the Classroom: The Mind Benders*. Southern Illinois University Press, 1979.
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- Luthi, Max (translated by Lee Chadeayne and Paul Gottwald). *Once Upon a Time: On the Nature of Fairy Tales*. Indiana University Press, 1976.
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- McCaslin, Nellie, editor. *Children and Drama*, 2d ed. Longman, 1981.
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- Wagner, Betty Jane. *Dorothy Heathcote: Drama as a Learning Medium*. National Educational Association, 1976.



# Directory of Publishers

- Abingdon Press**, 1015 Visco Dr., Nashville, TN 37210
- Aladdin Books**. Imprint of Atheneum Publishers. Distributed by Riverside Distribution Center, Front and Brown Sts., Riverside, NJ 08075
- Allison & Busby**. Distributed by Schocken Books. Orders to: 200 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016
- Anchor Books**. Imprint of Doubleday & Co. Orders to: 501 Franklin Ave., Garden City, NY 11530
- Argo Books**. Imprint of Atheneum Publishers. Distributed by Riverside Distribution Center, Front and Brown Sts., Riverside, NJ 08075
- Atheneum Publishers**. Distributed by Riverside Distribution Center, Front and Brown Sts., Riverside, NJ 08075
- Atlantic Monthly Press Books**. Distributed by Little, Brown & Co. Orders to: 200 West St., Waltham, MA 02154
- Bala Books**, 268 W. 23rd St., New York, NY 10011
- Bantam Books**. Orders to: 414 E. Golf Rd., Des Plaines, IL 60016
- Bantam Skylark Books**. Imprint of Bantam Books. Orders to: 414 E. Golf Rd., Des Plaines, IL 60016
- Barron's Educational Series**, 113 Crossways Park Dr., Woodbury, NY 11797
- Bodley Head Ltd.**, 9 Bow St., London WC2E 7AL, England
- Bradbury Press**. Distributed by Macmillan Publishing Co. Orders to: Front and Brown Sts., Riverside, NJ 08075
- Carnival Press Books**. Imprint of Raintree Publishers, 330 E. Kilbourn Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53202
- Carolrhoda Books**, 241 First Ave. N., Minneapolis, MN 55401
- Clarion Books**. Imprint of Houghton Mifflin Co., One Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108
- Coward-McCann**. Distributed by the Putnam Publishing Group. Orders to: 200 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016
- Coward, McCann & Geoghegan**. Distributed by the Putnam Publishing Group. Orders to: 200 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016
- Thomas Y. Crowell**. Distributed by Harper & Row, Publishers. Orders to: Keystone Industrial Park, Scranton, PA 18512
- Crown Publishers**, One Park Ave., New York, NY 10016
- Delacorte Press**, One Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, New York, NY 10017
- Design Enterprises of San Francisco**, P.O. Box 14695, San Francisco, CA 94114
- André Deutsch**. Distributed by E. P. Dutton, Two Park Ave., New York, NY 10016

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- Dial Books for Young Readers. Imprint of E. P. Dutton, Two Park Ave., New York, NY 10016
- Dial Press. Distributed by Doubleday & Co. Orders to: 501 Franklin Ave., Garden City, NY 11530
- Dillon Press, 242 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55415
- Dodd, Mead & Co., 79 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016
- Doubleday & Co. Orders to: 501 Franklin Ave., Garden City, NY 11530
- E. P. Dutton, Two Park Ave., New York, NY 10016
- Elsevier/Nelson Books. Imprint of Elsevier-Dutton, Two Park Ave., New York, NY 10016
- Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 19 Union Square W., New York, NY 10003
- Four Winds Press. Imprint of Scholastic. Orders to: P.O. Box 7502, 2931 E. McCarty St., Jefferson City, MO 65102
- Garrard Publishing Co., 1607 N. Market St., Champaign, IL 61820
- Gloucester Press. Imprint of Franklin Watts, 387 Park Ave. S., New York, NY 10016
- Golden Press. Imprint of Western Publishing Co., 850 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022
- Greenwillow Books. Orders to: William Morrow & Co., Wilmor Warehouse, 6 Henderson Dr., West Caldwell, NJ 07006
- Grosset & Dunlap, 200 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10010
- Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1250 Sixth Ave., San Diego, CA 92101
- Harmony Books. Division of Crown Publishers, One Park Ave., New York, NY 10016
- Harper & Row, Publishers. Orders to: Keystone Industrial Park, Scranton, PA 18512
- Harper Trophy Books. Imprint of Harper & Row, Publishers. Orders to: Keystone Industrial Park, Scranton, PA 18512
- Hastings House, Publishers, 10 E. 40th St., New York, NY 10016
- Herald Press. Division of Mennonite Publishing House, 616 Walnut Ave., Scottsdale, PA 15683
- Hillside Books. Imprint of E. P. Dutton, Two Park Ave., New York, NY 10016
- Holiday House, 18 E. 53rd St., New York, NY 10022
- Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 383 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10017
- Houghton Mifflin Co., One Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108
- Jem Books. Imprint of Julian Messner, 1230 Ave. of the Americas, New York, NY 10020
- Alfred A. Knopf. Orders to: 400 Hahn Rd., Westminster, MD 21157
- Lerner Publications. Orders to: 241 First Ave. N., Minneapolis, MN 55401
- J. B. Lippincott Co. Orders to: 2350 Virginia Ave., Hagerstown, MD 21740
- Little, Brown & Co. Orders to: 200 West St., Waltham, MA 02154
- Lodestar Books. Imprint of E. P. Dutton, Two Park Ave., New York, NY 10016
- Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books. Orders to: William Morrow & Co., Wilmor Warehouse, 6 Henderson Dr., West Caldwell, NJ 07006

- Macmillan Publishing Co.** Orders to: Front and Brown Sts., Riverside, NJ 08075
- Margaret K. McElderry Books.** Imprint of Atheneum Publishers. Distributed by Riverside Distribution Center, Front and Brown Sts., Riverside, NJ 08075
- Julian Messner,** 1230 Ave. of the Americas, New York, NY 10020
- William Morrow & Co.** Orders to: Wilmor Warehouse, 6 Henderson Dr., West Caldwell, NJ 07006
- Morrow Junior Books.** Imprint of William Morrow & Co. Orders to: Wilmor Warehouse, 6 Henderson Dr., West Caldwell, NJ 07006
- Oxford University Press.** Orders to: 16-00 Pollitt Dr., Fair Lawn, NJ 07410
- Pantheon Books.** Orders to: Random House, 400 Hahn Rd., Westminster, MD 21157
- Parents Magazine Press.** Distributed by Elsevier-Dutton Publishing Co., Two Park Ave., Dept. JH, New York, NY 10016
- Parnassus Press.** Imprint of Houghton Mifflin Co., One Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108
- Philomel Books.** Distributed by the Putnam Publishing Group. Orders to: 200 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016
- Pied Piper Books.** Imprint of Dial Press. Distributed by Doubleday & Co. Orders to: 501 Franklin Ave., Garden City, NY 11530
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