

NOTE THE NOTABLES OF 2003  
Linda Jewett, Coordinator of Library Services  
Sacramento City Unified School District

**A-tisket, A-tasket.** Ella Fitzgerald and Van Alexander. Illus. by Ora Eitan. Penguin Putnam/Philomel. \$16.00. In 1938, jazz artist Ella Fitzgerald sang the song that tells of a small child in the city who drops his green and yellow basket and later sees a little girl carrying it around. The illustrations are done with bright mixed media and colors that literally sing along with the words. Playing a recording of the original Ella Fitzgerald song is a must when reading this book aloud!

**ABC: A Child's First Alphabet Book.** Alison Jay. Dutton. \$16.00. Each stylized painting represents a letter of the alphabet. Children must look closely to see what letter will come next and what might have happened to a letter already viewed. The book looks deceptively simple but in reality is complex, intriguing and engaging.

**The Afterlife.** Gary Soto. Harcourt. \$16.00. Chuy looks back at his life after he is tragically murdered – as a ghost he can see what is happening with his family and friends and has the opportunity to find happiness in the afterlife. Set in Fresno, this is a poignant, sad, sweet and sometimes funny story. California author. YOUNG ADULT.

**Ah, Music!** Alike. Illus. by the author. HarperCollins. This delightful compendium includes information about all types of music, composers, instruments, and music history. The format, with appealing illustrations and cartoon-like figures, will appeal to all ages. The book begins with “What is music? Wild! Cool, Dramatic, patriotic, passionate, spiritual, fresh! Profound, nostalgic, sublime.” This book covers it all! **Open Court: Beyond the Notes.**

**Air Force One: The Aircraft That Shaped the Modern Presidency.** Von Hardesty. Illus. with photos, maps and prints. NorthWord. \$30.00. President Gerald Ford said, “When they fly you on Air Force One, you know you’re the president.” This fascinating book is the story of the presidents, the planes, and their many trips around the world and across America. The first president to fly was Theodore Roosevelt who took an airborne spin in 1910. Using aircraft for presidential travel began with Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1943. Reading this book and studying the photos is truly looking at a history of the modern American presidency.

**Airborne: A Photobiography of Wilbur and Orville Wright.** Mary Collins. Illus. with archival photos. National Geographic. \$19.00. This photobiography of Wilbur and Orville Wright examines not only their lives but also discusses their experiments and triumphs in the field of flight. Includes Afterword, Chronology, Resources.

**Almost to Freedom.** Vaunda Micheaux Nelson. Illus. by Colin Bootman. Carolrhoda. \$16.00. Writer Margaret Atwood once said, “A doll is a witness who cannot die, with a doll you are never along.” This story about escape through the Underground Railroad is told by the voice of the rag doll that was part of two journeys. The large picture book format with glowing illustrations evokes the dangers, the hope, and the courage of the thousands who traveled to freedom on the Underground Railroad. 2004 Coretta Scott King Honor Book. **Open Court: Courage.**

**Amber Waiting.** Nan Gregory. Illus. by Kady MacDonald Denton. Red Deer Press. \$18.00. Amber loves everything about kindergarten – looking at books, painting, tying her shoes. What she doesn't like is her father always being late to come get her! While waiting one day Amber

dreams up a world in which she makes her father wait for her – on the moon – while she has all sorts of adventures. **Open Court: School.**

**American Boy: The Adventures of Mark Twain.** Don Brown. Illus. by the author. Houghton. \$16.00. This whimsical picture book biography of Samuel Clemens will most certainly encourage young readers to seek out and read Tom Sawyer. Brown's writing is superb in describing the boyhood of America's most beloved author. He uses quotes directly from Clemens and his writing often reflects the same dry wit as that of his subject. The illustrations are soft watercolors and evoke the seemingly carefree childhood of Sam Clemens. I loved the line: "Bye and bye, he remembered his boyhood, the glad morning of his life." A lovely read-aloud.

**An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793.** Jim Murphy. Clarion. \$17.00. Illustrated with prints and facsimile documents. 2004 Robert F. Sibert Award and 2004 Newbery Honor Award. Thousands of Philadelphians fled their city during the summer of 1793 because of an epidemic of Yellow Fever. This is the story of those who stayed to combat the nearly always fatal disease. Original source materials are reproduced at each chapter's beginning that add a sense of that time in American history. The controversies about the credibility of the doctors and the courage of the African American nurses who treated the sick are especially interesting. Surprisingly, the true cause of Yellow Fever and effective treatment was not discovered until the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The last chapter discusses the implications today for a sickness that has no cure. **Open Court: From Mystery to Medicine.**

**The Amulet of Samarkand: Book One of the Bartimaeus Trilogy.** Jonathan Stroud. Miramax/Hyperion. \$18.00. Five-year-old Nathaniel was sold by his parents to the government to become a magician's apprentice. Seven years later, he summons Bartimaeus the djinn to steal the precious Amulet of Samarkand – and this leads to great danger and even death. The narration volleys between Nathaniel (third person) and Bartimaeus (first person).

**Animal Sense.** Diane Ackerman. Illus. by Peter Sís. Knopf. \$15.00. This small volume of clever poems for the intermediate student tells about a variety of animals and their senses – "Flies taste food with their feet, If it's good to dance in, it's good to eat. When one lands on a pile

**Babies on the Go.** Linda Ashman. Illus. by Jane Dyer. Harcourt. \$16.00. Soft watercolors and rhyming text explains how mothers – both human and animal -carry their babies when they are on the move! **Open Court: Animals.**

**Baby Radar.** Naomi Shihab Nye. Illus. by Nancy Carpenter. Greenwillow. \$17.00. A toddler and mother go out for a walk – mom pushing the baby in the stroller. The story is told by Baby and we see life from the seat of a stroller. The text is succinct and the illustrations are sweet. For the youngest set.

**Bad Boys.** Margie Palatini. Illus. by Henry Cole. HarperCollins. After escaping the wrath of the pigs, Wally and Willy Wolf are determined to make a meal of the flock of sheep in the meadow. Puns abound and plays on words will delight the astute student. Of course, good wins out over bad and the bad boys learn a lesson – maybe. Great read-aloud!

**Ballad of Sir Dinadan.** Gerald Morris. Houghton Mifflin. Set in the time of King Arthur. Eightenn-year-old Dinadan wants only to be a minstrel but his father demands that he become a knight. His adventures take him to King Arthur’s court and eventually he finds that honor is more than something to be sung about in a song.

**Bartlett and the Ice Voyage.** Odo Hirsch. Illus. by Andrew McLean. Bloomsbury. \$15.00. The young queen is busy ruling seven kingdoms and has little time to leave her palace and so her subjects send exotic gifts from far away. What the queen really wants is the fruit of the meidrop, but so far no one has been able to bring it to her. She sends two explorers, Bartlett and Jacques le Grand to bring the fruit and their greatest adventure begins.

**Battle of Jericho.** Sharon Draper. Atheneum. \$17.00. When Jericho is invited to pledge for the Warriors of Distinction, he thinks his life can't get any better. As the most exclusive club in

of el Trujillo's dictatorship. Anita must overcome her fears and escape – leaving all that is familiar behind. 2004 Pura Belpre Award. YOUNG ADULT.

**Begging for Change.** Sharon Flake. Hyperion. \$16.00. Raspberry Hill, who once was homeless, vowed never to end up on the streets again. To her, money equals security. But when a troubled neighborhood teenager attacks her mother, Raspberry is desperate for things in her life to change and ends up stealing from her best friend. But nothing good comes from bad money. Sequel to *Money Hungry*. YOUNG ADULT.

**Ben Franklin's Almanac: Being a True Account of the Good Gentleman's Life.** Candance Fleming. Simon & Schuster. \$20.00. This biography consists of all of the parts that made the man, Benjamin Franklin. It is a family album, a writer's journal, a scientist's scrapbook, a revolutionary's memories, a traveler's accounts and final remembrances. It is indeed a treasure trove of information about Franklin and the events of his time. **Open Court: Making a New Nation.**

**Berry-Picking Man.** Jane Buchanan. Pictures by Leslie Bowman. Farrar. \$15.00. Learning to accept people as they are is the message of this first novel. Nine-year-old Meggie cannot abide Old Sam – he smells bad, his manners are terrible and he demands that Meggie's mother take him places. It is through her mother's continuous kindness to the old man that Meggie learns to accept him and to reach out in friendship and kindness when he is in real need.

**Big Day on the River.** Sarah Wilson. Illus. by Randy Cecil. Holt. \$17.00. Willie is ready to set out on a raft trip on the Wallawatchee. Family members rush down with goodbye gifts that almost put a kabash on the journey - all that Willie wants are their hugs and kisses and good wishes. California author.

**Big Momma Makes the World.** Phyllis Root. Illus. by Helen Oxenbury. Candlewick. \$17.00. The large format of this wonderful creation story evokes the tall tale it presents. Big Momma creates the world and everything in it – and then tells the people “down there” that they must take care of her creation. The pictures simply glow off the pages. A delightful read aloud and a discussion might follow comparing creation stories across cultures and time.

**Birdland.** Tracy Mack. Scholastic. \$17.00. Thirteen-year-old Jed lives in the East Village of New York City and spends his Christmas break filming a school project documentary about his neighborhood. As he films he must constantly deal with the death of his poet brother, Zeke, who died 6 months earlier. YOUNG ADULT.

**The Blizzard.** Betty Ren Wright. Illus. by Ronald Himler. Holiday House. \$17.00. It's Billy's birthday but what a disappointment - because of a storm his cousins can't come to celebrate with him! Billy's house is closest to the schoolhouse and when the storm turns into a full-fledged blizzard, the entire school comes to spend his birthday night with him.

**Blues Journey.** Walter Dean Myers. Illus. by Christopher Myers. Holiday House. \$19.00. What are the Blues? Walter Dean Myers explains through lyrical examples what this American genre of music is and how it came about. Based on the “call and response” patterns of traditional African music, the music can be both sad and joyful. Includes glossary.



she not only grows to love her old aunts but she meets quite a few quirky local characters – and ends up staying for the rest of her life.

**Carl Sandburg: Adventures of a Poet.** Written by Penelope Niven with poems and prose by Carl Sandburg. Illus. by Marc Nadel. Harcourt. \$17.00. Every other page of this picture book biography discusses a phase of Carl Sandburg's life, with the facing page holding an illustration by Nadel and a Sandburg writing piece describing that particular phase. Included are: Soldier, Journalist, Minstrel, Family Man, Storyteller, Historian, Pen Pal, Dreamer and Poet. Includes Time Line and Illustration Notes.

**Casey at the Bat: A Ballad of the Republic Sung in the Year 1888.** Ernest L. Thayer. Illus. by C.F. Payne. Simon and Schuster. \$17.00. Ernest L. Thayer was a writer for the San Francisco Daily Examiner in June of 1888 when he wrote his now famous poem, *Casey at the Bat*. Readers of the Examiner interpreted the "Mudville nine" as the California League club that was at the bottom of the League standings. The illustrations seem larger than life and express perfectly the sorrow that came to Mudville when mighty Casey struck out.

**The Cat Who Got Carried Away.** Allan Ahlberg. Illus. by Katharine McEwen. Candlewick. \$16.00. This is a delightful beginning chapter book that involves all of the Gaskitt family – Mr. and Mrs. Gaskitt, Gus and Gloria Gaskitt, and Horace, the Gaskitt's cat. Adventures include a barking baby carriage, a substitute teacher at school, and a mystery involving missing pets.

**The Cat Who Liked Potato Soup.** Terry Farish. Illus. by Barry Root. Candlewick. \$16.00. This is a sweet love story of two old curmudgeons – an old farmer and an old cat. They like to eat potato soup and go fishing together in the boat but one day the cat seems too tired to go fishing and when the old man leaves without him, his troubles are just beginning. A super read-aloud!

**Clorinda.** Robert Kinerk. Illus. by Steven Kellogg. Simon & Schuster. \$16.00. Clorinda the cow dreams of being a professional ballet dancer. Len the farmer builds her a stage but they both know that she must seek her destiny in Manhattan. She sets out for the city and finally, finally lands her big part in the ballet *Giselle* – unfortunately, size does matter and Clorinda decides that dancing on the farm is best for her, after all. **Open Court: Keep Trying.**

**Cold Tom.** Sally Prue. Scholastic Press. \$16.00. Tom is both elfin and human – he has been

**A Cool Moonlight.** Angela Johnson. Dial. \$15.00. Eight-year-old Lila was born with a rare and dangerous allergy to sunlight and must stay in the dark at all times. She leaves her house only at night and wears wrap around sunglasses indoors. Two little girls from next door who play with her in the nighttime garden secretly plan with Lila to help her feel the warmth of the sunlight on her ninth birthday.

**Corn Chowder.** Poems by James Stevenson. HarperCollins/Greenwillow. \$16.00. The dust jacket gives a perfect description of this newest in Stevenson's Corn poetry series "This book is

**A Day in the Life of Murphy.** Alice Provensen. Illus. by the author. Simon & Schuster. \$17.00. Murphy is a dog and he hears his name as “Murphy-Stop-That!” The reader follows Murphy through his day on the farm, in his quest for food tidbits and his love of barking. Murphy shows his distinct personality throughout this humorous read-aloud or read-alone book.

**The Day the Babies Crawled Away.** Peggy Rathmann. Illus. by the author. Putnam. Oh, no! Where did the babies go? A little boy takes the reader along as he follows the babies when they crawl away from their parents at a picnic. The illustrations are bright with the characters shown in black silhouette against vibrant backgrounds. Terrific read-aloud for preschool – 1<sup>st</sup> grade.

**Days of Jubilee: the End of Slavery in the United States.** Patricia and Fredrick McKissack. Illus. with archival photos and prints. Scholastic. \$19.00. In this comprehensive book, slave narratives, letters, diaries, military orders, and other documents chronicle the stages leading up to the emancipation of slaves during the Civil War. Many of the narratives used were collected by staff at the Library of Congress in the 1930s. Includes Time Line, Bibliography, Index. 2004 Coretta Scott King Honor Book.

**Dear World.** Takayo Noda. Illus. by the author. Dial. \$17.00. This charming book consists of poetic letters to different aspects of a child’s world – the sun, the dawn, fishes, trees, and even valentines. The illustrations are bright and colorful collages rendered with watercolors on handmade paper.

**Destination Unexpected.** Edited by Donald R. Gallo. Candlewick. \$17.00. Each of the ten short stories in this anthology center around the theme of “journeys to discovery” – to Europe, summer camp, the local diner, etc. Notable YA authors such as Ron Koertge, Margaret Peterson Haddix, and Richard Peck contributed to this collection. YOUNG ADULT.

**Diary of a Worm.** Doreen Cronin. Pictures by Harry Bliss. HarperCollins. \$17.00. The author of *Click, Clack, Moo: Cows that Type* is back – this time addressing the worm world. A young worm, like any young child, discovers that there are both good things and not-so-good things in life. Children will chortle at the sight of worms doing the hokey pokey at the school dance, and sympathize when the worm has a bad dream. This little story is certain to have readers looking into the soil to find a few worms to study – and perhaps learning how worms help take care of the earth.

**Dinosaur Mummies: Beyond Bare-Bones Fossils.** Kelly Milner Halls. Illus. by Rick Spears. Includes color photos. Darby Creek Publishing. \$18.00. In the summer of 2000, scientists in Montana discovered the most complete dinosaur mummy ever found. This book describes the rare finds over the years of fossilized dinosaur mummies – where nature has saved small pieces of a dinosaur’s soft tissue along with bone. Bibliographies of Books, Videos/DVDs, Web Sites, Dig Site Destinations, Personal Interviews and Correspondence. Glossary. Index. Don’t pass up this book! **Open Court: Fossils.**

**Do You Still Love Me?** Charlotte Middleton. Illus. by the author. Candlewick. \$16.00. Dudley is a dog and he and his mistress Anna are very fond of one another. They even like to sit and read together every afternoon. But then, horrors! Anna brings home a new pet – a baby chameleon called Pequito. Things change for Dudley and he feels sad because he is not the favorite pet any more. But when he saves Pequito from serious danger, Dudley and Pequito learn to share Anna and she loves them both – as she always did. Illustrations are multi-media collages.

**Dolores on Her Toes.** Barbara Samuels. Illus. by the author. Melanie Kroupa Books/Farrar, Straus and Giroux. \$17.00. Dolores involves a somewhat unwilling Duncan the cat in preparations for Tutu Day. When it gets too much for Duncan, he disappears and Dolores has a mystery to solve that is even more important than Tutu Day – where is Duncan?!

**Don't Hold Me Back: My Life and Art.** Winfred Rembert, with a poem by Nikki Giovanni. Illus. By the author. Cricket/Marcato. \$20.00. Black artist Winfred Rembert tells about growing up on a cotton plantation in Georgia, serving time in prison for his actions during a civil rights demonstration, and finding new purpose and direction in his life. Includes A Note on the Art, Historical Note, Further Reading.

**Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus.** Words and pictures by Mo Willems. Hyperion. \$13.00. The bus driver tells the reader that he has to leave for a little while, please watch things for him – and, don't let the pigeon drive the bus! Well, next scene the pigeon strolls onto the page and gives all the reasons why, WHY he should be allowed to drive the bus. Children who wheedle and whine just may recognize themselves in the clever pigeon. 2004 Caldecott Honor Book.

**Donuthead.** Sue Stauffacher. Knopf. \$16.00. Franklin Delano Donuthead is a 5<sup>th</sup> grader obsessed with safety and cleanliness and has issues with his mother who tries constantly to slip him something non-organic to eat – like Oreos. When the new girl in his class becomes his friend, it is an unlikely friendship – she lives in a dirty trailer, has a lethal fist, and bonds with Franklin's mother. Both have much to learn from one another and this funny story of friendship and risks has much to share with the reader!

**The Dot.** Peter Reynolds. Illus. by the author. Candlewick. \$14.00. Vashti refuses to participate in art class until her art teacher challenges her to “Just make a mark and see where it takes you.” Vashti makes an angry dot but after seeing it framed over her teacher's desk, vows she can do better. This little book encourages all of us to release that creative spirit that resides in all of us.

**Duel of the Ironclads: The Monitor vs. the Virginia.** Patrick O'Brien. Walker. \$18.00. Large watercolor illustrations enhance the text of this book that is a description of the construction, battles, and historical impact of the Civil War battleships, the Monitor and the Virginia (known to Union forces as the Monitor and the Merrimack).

**The Earth, My Butt and Other Big Round Things.** Carolyn Mackler. Candlewick. \$16.00. Virginia feels she doesn't fit in with her family – they are attractive, smart, thin and successful. Ginny goes to a private high school and obeys the “Fat Girl Code of Conduct” – her overbearing psychologist mother's campaign in life is to get Ginny thin. The family dynamics begins to unravel when Ginny's older brother is suspended from the university for date rape and Ginny finally starts taking control of her life. Michael L. Printz Honor Book. YOUNG ADULT.

**Earthshake: Poems from the Ground Up.** Lisa Westberg Peters. Pictures by Cathie Felstead. Greenwillow/HarperCollins. \$18.00. What a super integration of poetry and science! In this book, the poet presents 28 poems about geology. A fun activity would be to identify on a map where the geologic events have occurred – a Sahara-like desert in Michigan? A Wyoming layer cake? The illustrations are collages created from a mixed media. End Notes give information about the earth's surface and interior.

**East.** Edith Pattou. Harcourt. \$18.00. This story is a retelling of the classic *East of the Sun and West of the Moon*. Rose is the youngest of seven children and has always felt restless and

alienated from her family. When a large white bear takes her on his back to a distant castle she meets a mysterious stranger and loses her heart.

**Ella Sarah Gets Dressed.** Margaret Chodos-Irvine. Illus. by the author. Harcourt. \$16.00. Ella Sarah knows *exactly* what she wants to wear in the morning but everyone in the family has other ideas. What they fail to understand is that Ella Sarah and her little friends are having a dress-up party and her outfit is perfect! The author/artist used a variety of printmaking techniques to illustrate her story. 2004 Caldecott Honor Book.

**Emma's Strange Pet.** Jean Little. Pictures by Jennifer Plecas. HarperCollins. \$17.00. *An I Can Read Book.* Emma's little brother desperately wants a pet, but Emma is allergic to animals with fur. The new pet is nothing like Max thought it would be but Stranger is so great that Max wants one, too.

**Eragon.** Christopher Paolini. Knopf. \$19.00. When Eragon finds the blue stone, he doesn't realize his entire life will change with the emergence of the blue dragon inside. As in Tolkien, the violence and creatures of the dark are not for the faint of heart. Banding together with the local storyteller, Brom, they set off on an action-packed journey while Brom teaches Eragon what he must know to read, defend himself, and be a dragonrider. The author was 15 years old when he wrote this first book in the Inheritance trilogy.

**The Essential Worldwide Monster Guide.** Linda Ashman. Illus. by David Small. Simon & Schuster. \$17.00. Travel the world to visit 13 international monsters – from Abatwa in Africa to Sasquatch in North America. The monsters are each described in a short poem with a sidebar of explanation. The illustrations are both whimsical and bold and filled with snatches of humor.

**Evie and Margie.** Bernard Waber. Walter Lorraine Books/Houghton Mifflin. \$15.00. Evie and Margie are best friends and dream together of becoming famous actors. Auditions for a local production of Cinderella are held and their friendship is truly tested when the parts are announced – however, all's well that ends well! **Open Court: Friendship.**

**Eyes and Ears.**

**Fat Kid Rules the World.** K.L. Going. Putnam's Sons. \$18.00. Troy Billings, a 296-pound loner and Curt MacCrae, a punk-guitarist (both troubled teens) become friends through a mutual love of music. 2004 Michael L. Printz Honor Book. YOUNG ADULT.

**Fight On!: Mary Church Terrell's Battle for Integration.** Dennis Brindell Fradin & Judith Bloom Fradin. Illus. with archival photos and prints. Clarion. \$17.00. This is a fine biography of Mary Church Terrell, who was the first African American Washington, D.C., Board of Education member. She helped form the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), fought against lynching, worked for women's rights to vote and, at the age of 86, campaigned to end segregation in the nation's capitol. Includes Source Notes, Bibliography, Index. **Open Court: Taking a Stand.**

**Fireflies at Midnight.** Marilyn Singer. Pictures by Ken Robbins. Simon & Schuster. \$17.00. The reader touches all the times of day and night through poetry that examines the lives of birds and insects. Beginning with dawn we see a robin greeting the new day, a horse eats grass during mid-day, a rabbit hides in the grass at dusk, a firefly flashes at midnight, a spider spins a web at nighttime, and a mole goes to sleep at dawn. The illustrations are rendered as photographic treatments.

**First Day in Grapes.** L. King Perez. Illus. by Robert Casilla. Lee & Low. \$17.00. All year long, Chico's family moves up and down California to pick fruits and vegetables. Every September, Chico begins the school year in a new school and often, the other kids pick on him — maybe because he's always new, or maybe because he speaks Spanish sometimes. But third grade promises to be different. He likes his teacher, and she recognizes his excellent abilities in math — he may even get to go to the math fair! When some fourth-grade bullies tease him, he surprises them with strengths of his own. 2004 Pura Belpre Honor Book for Illustration.

**First Part Last.** Angela Johnson. Simon & Schuster. \$16.00. Sixteen-year-old Bobby is raising his baby girl by himself and although he lives with his parents they do not coddle either the baby or Bobby — he must care for Feather, go to high school, and visit his girlfriend Nia in the convalescent home. The chapters switch between "then" and "now" and it is not until near the end of the story that it is revealed why Bobby is raising Feather alone. **2004 Coretta Scott King Award. 2004 Michael L. Printz Award.** YOUNG ADULT.

**First to Fly: How Wilbur & Orville Wright Invented the Airplane.** Peter Busby. Paintings by David Craig. Diagrams by Jack McMaster. Historical Consultation by Fred E.C. Culick. Archival photos and prints. Madison Press Book produced for Crown. \$20.00. Not only is this beautiful book a biography of the Wright brothers, it also presents a detailed explanation of how they accomplished their remarkable flight. Sidebars of text and photos enhance the telling. This is one of the finest books celebrating the centennial of the flight at Kitty Hawk.

**Flora's Surprise!** Debi Gliori. Illus. by the author. Orchard/Scholastic. \$16.00. Flora's family is planting a garden and Flora plants a brick. She insists that she has planted a house and waits patiently through the seasons for the results. Come spring a "house" and a wonderful surprise has replaced the buried brick.

**For Freedom: The Story of a French Spy.** Kimberly Brubaker Bradley. Delacorte. \$16.00. The Nazis occupy Cherbourg, France, the town where 13-year-old Suzanne lives during World War II. She is a gifted singer and after the Nazis force the family from their home, Suzanne still attends school, sings in the church choir and then sings in the local opera company. When Suzanne is asked to become a spy for the Resistance and pass coded messages to other spies, she agrees despite the danger. Based on a true story.



**Ginger Finds a Home.** Charlotte Voake. Illus. by the author. Candlewick. \$16.00. A little skinny stray cat lives in a patch of weeds and eats out of garbage cans until a little girl befriends her. **Open Court: Finding Friends.**

**Goldie and the Three Bears.** Diane Stanley. Illus. by the author. HarperCollins. \$17.00. Goldie has a difficult time meeting a best friend until she walks into an empty house on her way home from school – there she eats, reads in a chair and takes a nap. And then the residents come home and find Goldie. Loosely based on Goldilocks and children will find it fun to compare and contrast the two stories. **Open Court: Finding Friends.**

**Goldilocks and the Three Bears.** Retold by Jim Aylesworth. Illus. by Barbara McClintock. Scholastic. \$16.00. The traditional Goldilocks story that will make a perfect read aloud. The illustrations are reminiscent of Randolph Caldecott and lend an old-fashioned flavor to the telling.

**Good Night Sam.** Marie-Louise Gay. Illus. by the author. Groundwood. \$15.00. Sam can't go to sleep until he finds Fred. Big sister Stella finally gets up to look for Fred, can't find him and it's back to bed – only to find Fred in bed. Sam can't go to sleep because Fred is snoring ...

**The Goose Girl.** Shannon Hale. Bloombury. \$18.00. This book is based on the Grimm's fairy tale about the princess who became a goose girl before she could become a queen. Anidori-Kiladra Talianna Isilee, Crown Princess of Kilenree (shortened to Ani) is on a journey to marry a prince she has never met, when she is betrayed by her own guards and lady-in-waiting and forced to become a goose girl. How she regains her crown, finds true love and lives happily ever after is revealed in this delightful novel/fairy tale.

**Granny Torrelli Makes Soup.** Sharon Creech. Drawings by Chris Raschka. Joanna Cotler Books/HarperCollins. \$17.00. Twelve-year-old Rosie and Bailey, the boy next door, have been best friends since babyhood. When their friendship is strained because of a new girl in their neighborhood, Granny Torrelli knows just how to sooth over the rough spots. Readers will learn much about Italian cooking, family love and friendship. A nice read aloud.

**Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez.** Kathleen Krull. Illus. by Yuyi Morales. Harcourt. \$17.00. This stunning picture book biography about Chavez is told from age 10 until his death at age 66 years. The glowing illustrations add richness to the book and evoke the colors and beauty of the land and of the Hispanic culture. 2004 Pura Belpre Honor Book for Illustration. Also available in Spanish language edition: *Cosechando Esperanza* (translated by F. Isabel Campoy and Alma Flor Ada). California author. California illustrator. **Open Court: Taking a Stand.**

**Hatching Magic.** Ann Downer. Atheneum. \$17.00. The book's dramatic cover shows a hatchling emerging from an egg and serves to jumpstart this fantasy of wizards and wyverns (small dragons). Wycca, a pregnant wyvern, goes through a magic bolt-hole into present-day

need of a new dress because she is outgrowing her only dress and we see the sheep shorn, the dye made, the cloth woven and a new dress sewn and fitted. Author's Note explains how different it was to be a child living in Colonial times. California author.

**House of Windjammer.** V.A. Richardson. Bloomsbury. \$17.00. In the fall of 1636, tulip fever has gripped Amsterdam. Tulips are desired by all and the market is at a high. The Dutch family

**It's a Hummingbird's Life.** Irene Kelly. Illus. by the author. Holiday House. \$17.00. Did you know that a single penny fits snugly in a hummingbird's nest? Hummingbird eggs are so small that you could mail 60 eggs with one postage stamp? This little book is filled with interesting facts and wonders about the habits and habitats of the Ruby-throated hummingbird.

**It's a Miracle: A Hanukkah Storybook.** Stephanie Spinner. Illus. by Jill McElmurry. An Anne Schwartz Book/Atheneum. \$17.00. The young reader joins Owen and his grandmother every night of Hanukkah as Grandma Karen kicks off her cowboy boots and tells Owen a bedtime story that celebrates his heritage.

**Jabberwocky.** Lewis Carroll. Illus. by Joel Stewart. Candlewick. \$16.00. Lewis Carroll's nonsense poem first appeared in 1872 in his book, *Through the Looking-Glass and What Alice Found There* and even Alice said after reading it, "Somehow it fills my head with ideas – only I don't know exactly what they are." Stewart's large illustrations break down each line and suddenly Jaberwocky does make sense! This is a fun look at the Jaberwocky creatures and their adventure with a small hero.

**Jack: The Early Years of John F. Kennedy.** Ilene Cooper. Dutton. \$23.00. What was Jack Kennedy like as a boy? What were his hobbies? Was he a good student? Filled with archival photos and anecdotes, this book covers Kennedy's life from babyhood through his high school years. The Afterword briefly details his adult life in politics. Includes Source Notes, Bibliography (books, personal papers, video, and Internet sources), Index.

**Jumbo Book of Art: An Artistic Adventure from the Avenue Road Arts School.** Irene Luxbacher. Illus. by the author. Kids Can Press. Paperback. \$15.00. This book is a terrific art resource for the classroom teacher. Subjects covered are drawing, color, sculpture, and mixed-media. Includes Index.

**Just a Minute: A Trickster Tale and Counting Book.** Yuyi Morales. Illus. by the author. Chronicle Books. This is an original trickster story in which Senor Calavera comes to Grandma Beetle's door and asks that she leave with him. Grandma Beetle delays him by finishing her chores – sweeping, boiling tea, making tortillas – and this goes on until she is able to spend her birthday with her grandchildren. Includes counting in both English and Spanish. 2004 Pura Belpre Award.

**Keeper of the Night.** Kimberly Willis Holt. Henry Holt. \$17.00. After Isabel's mother dies by suicide, the 13-year-old struggles to keep her family together, while dealing with her own grief and confusion. Set in Guam. YOUNG ADULT.

**Keesha's House.** Helen Frost. Frances Foster Books/Farrar, Strauss and Giroux. \$16.00. Joe opens his house to kids on the run and after Keesha takes up residency she attracts other young people to come to the house. The 7 teens all have different issues but the common goal of making it on their own and each of their poems describe why they left home and where they have found "home." 2004 Michael L. Printz Honor Book. YOUNG ADULT.

**Kid's Visual Reference of the USA.** Editors of Blackbirch Press. Illus. with photos, maps, and charts. Blackbirch/Gale/Thomson Learning. \$50.00. This single volume is an alphabetical presentation of brief statistics and pictorial information about each of the 50 states, plus the U.S. territories and possessions. This is an excellent reference volume that not only presents concise facts but is also is a tool for children to learn how to read charts and graphs.

**King of the Mild Frontier: An Ill-Advised Autobiography.** Chris Crutcher.

Greenwillow/HarperCollins. \$18.00. While this may seem to be an autobiography of this wildly popular young adult author, he states on the verso page, "Memory is selective and by nature faulty. That statement is probably doubly true for my memory. Add to that my penchant for exaggeration ... and you have a memoir that may not stand up to close historical scrutiny." Crutcher grew up in the small town of Cascade, Idaho in the 1950s and obviously tucked away many adventures for his career as an author! Those who like Chris Crutcher won't want to miss this story! Cataloged as Fiction. YOUNG ADULT.

**Kingfisher Book of Family Poems.** Selected by Belinda Hollyer. Illus. by Holly Swain.

Kingfisher/Houghton Mifflin. \$19.00. The 159 poems in this anthology explore the dynamics of families and family situations. The poems are poignant, funny, sad and most of all, insightful. Includes Index of Poets and Index of First Lines.

**The Last Treasure.** Janet S. Anderson. Dutton. \$18.00. Thirteen-year-old Tom and his father always seem to be on the run. When Tom is invited to come back to the family ancestral home for a visit, he accepts and becomes involved in looking for the final treasure of several that the family patriarch hid many years before.

**Leonardo, Beautiful Dreamer.** Robert Byrd. Illus. by the author. Dutton. \$18.00. This is a biography to be savored by all ages. It is filled with detailed illustrations and interesting facts about both da Vinci and the Renaissance, as well as quotations from his notebooks. As the world knows, Da Vinci was a painter, sculptor, scientist, mathematician and architect. However, he had little formal schooling and throughout his lifetime, left many projects unfinished. Includes Author's Note, Timeline, Bibliography.

**Li'l Dan, the Drummer Boy: A Civil War Story.** Romare Bearden. Illus. by the author.

Foreword by Henry Louis Gates Jr. Simon & Schuster. \$19.00. Includes a CD of the story as read by Maya Angelou. When a company of black Union soldiers arrive at the plantation where Li'l Dan lives, they tell him that he is no longer a slave – and because he has no family they take him along on their battle march. During an encounter with the Confederates, Li'l Dan saves the regiment from attack with the beating of his drum. **Open Court: Fine Art.**

**Little One Step.** Simon James. Illus. by the author. Candlewick. \$16.00. Three duckling brothers have a long distance to go to return to their mother. The two older ducklings make a game of their journey so that the youngest doesn't get discouraged – hence the name Little One Step. **Open Court: Fine Art.**

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**Mathematticles!** Poems by Betsy Franco. Illus. by Steven Salerno. Margaret K. McElderry Books. \$18.00. What fun! The poet writes poems using mathematical concepts: “farmland minus harvest equals earth’s naptime.” This is a wonderful pattern book and seamlessly integrates mathematics and language arts!

**Meanest Doll in the World.** Ann M. Martin & Laura Godwin. Pictures by Brian Selznick. Hyperion. \$16.00. Dolls Annabelle and Tiffany are inadvertently carried to another household and must now cope with Mean Mimi, a bullying princess doll who rules over all the toys in the house. Sequel to *The Doll People*.

**Milkweed.** Jerry Spinelli. Knopf. \$16.00. The setting for this book is Warsaw, Poland, 1939. A boy wanders the streets and survives by stealing food. He doesn’t know who he is, nor does he know if he is a Jew or gypsy and the only name his recognizes is “Stopthief.” A band of orphaned Jewish boys befriend him and he becomes part of their group. He becomes Misha and then meets Janina, the daughter of a middle class Jewish family who is moving to the newly formed ghetto. It is when living with this family in the ghetto that he begins to understand what the Nazis are planning for the Jews in Warsaw.

**Millions to Measure.** David M. Schwartz. Pictures by Steven Kellogg. HarperCollins. \$18.00. This is the third in a series of “million-dollar” titles by Schwartz and Kellogg. This time, Marvelosissimo the Magician explains the history and development of standard units of measure and shows how to calculate length, height, weight, and volume. Includes Measuring and the Metric System. California author.

**Moon, Have You Met My Mother?: The Collected Poems of Karla Kuskin.** Karla Kuskin. Illus. by Sergio Ruzzier. HarperCollins. \$18.00. Many, many delightful poems – both new and some previously published by Kuskin, are included in this volume. Cats, dogs, reading and books, food, clothes, and many more subjects are addressed thoughtfully, whimsically, and with humor.

**Morris the Artist.** Lore Segal. Pictures by Boris Kulikov. Frances Foster Books/Farrar, Straus and Giroux. \$16.00. Morris’s friend Benjamin is having a birthday and Morris takes a present he himself would like to receive. When it comes time to open gifts Morris refuses to hand over the present and then the package begins to grow and grow ... A delightful story about sharing, friendship and artistic creativity.

**Mortal Engines.** Philip Reeve. (The Hungry City Chronicles). EOS/HarperCollins. \$18.00. Imagine a future where cities are on tracks and 15-year-old Tom and his friend Hester rush to find a deadly weapon that is about to be unleashed. Tension abounds in this science fiction novel.

**Mosque.** David Macaulay. Illus. by the author. Walter Lorraine Books/Houghton Mifflin. \$18.00. The reader follows the architects and builders as they build an Ottoman mosque during the late 16<sup>th</sup> century. Although the tale is fiction the information showing the planning and subsequent construction is accurate. Views of construction from above and inside give a comprehensive understanding of the enormity of building the mosque.

**Mother to Tigers.** George Ella Lyon. Illus. by Peter Catalanotto. Richard JacksonAtheneum. \$17.00. The vibrant paintings in this non-fiction picture book will draw the reader to the poetic text. The story is about Helen Delaney who married Fred Martini, a zoo keeper at the Bronx



**My Grandmother's Stories: A Collection of Jewish Folk Tales.** Adèle Geras. Illus. Paintings by Anita Lobel. Knopf. \$20.00. Originally published in 1990, new illustrations bring added charm to this anthology of Jewish stories. A small girl spends time with her grandmother and as they move from room to room, Grandmother tells stories from her Russian Jewish heritage. **Open Court: Storytelling.**

**My Name Is Yoon.** Helen Recorvits. Illus. by Gabi Swiatkowska. Farrar, Straus and Giroux. \$16.00. Yoon's Korean name means "Shining Wisdom," and when written in Korean it looks happy – but in English "Yoon" stands alone and being new to the United States, she also feels lonely. Maybe a name like "Cat," "Bird," or even "Cupcake" might be a better name.

**My Pig Amarillo.** Satomi Ichikawa. Illus. by the author. Philomel/Penguin Putnam. \$16.00. The setting is Guatemala and Pablito has lost his best friend, his pig Amarillo. No matter how hard he looks, Amarillo is gone. Grandpa makes him a wooden pig that looks just like Amarillo but it's not the same. Finally, on All Saints' Day, Pablito follows tradition by flying a kite to let Amarillo know that Pablito is looking for him. A tender story that has a satisfying ending but not the happy one a reader might want.

**Mystery in Mt. Mole.** Richard W. Jennings. Walter Lorraine Books/Houghton Mifflin. \$15.00. Assistant Principal Jacob Farley had disappeared, but as Mt. Mole's least-liked citizen, no one in town seemed to be in any hurry to find him or his captor. Andrew decides to solve the mystery of the missing man and unearths buried secrets about the town and its citizens as well as the mountain for which the town is named.

**Necessary Noise: Stories about Our Families as They Really Are.** Edited By Michael Cart. Illus. by Charlotte Noruzi. Joanna Cotler Books/HarperCollins. \$17.00. The authors whose stories are included in this anthology read like a Who's Who of young adult fiction: Joan Bauer, Walter Dean Myers, Joyce Carol Thomas, Rita Williams-Garcia, and Lois Lowry, among others. Their stories reflect families as they are today - functional and dysfunctional, a single parent situation, or homeless – bottom line, they are connected and through the connections they make the necessary noises that a family makes when interacting together. **YOUNG ADULT.**

**The Neighborhood Mother Goose.** Nina Crews. Illus. by the author. Greenwillow. \$16.00. Here is another Mother Goose book that will delight young children. Imagine Georgie Porgie kissing all the girls (on the schoolgrounds), or a fine lady riding a white horse (on a carousel). It will be fun for children to see Mother Goose let loose in a neighborhood similar to their neighborhood!

**New Dinos: The Latest Finds! The Coolest Dinosaur Discoveries.** Shelley Tanaka. Illus. by Alan Barnard, Simon & Schuster. \$17.00. This is a photo essay that will delight the dinosaur fans and students. The author relates information about new discoveries in the Sahara, Madagascar, China, and Patagonia and discusses eggs, dung, feathers, and physiology. Includes Bibliography, Index. **Open Court: Fossils.**

**Night Science for Kids: Exploring the World after Dark.** Terry Krautwurst. Lark Books/Sterling. \$20.00. This book is filled with suggested activities and experiments for kids to do after dark – exploring night vision, becoming a night explorer, studying the stars, studying night birds and much more. Packed with color photos and diagrams. Includes Index.

**Nine Animals and the Well.** James Rumford. Illus. by the author. Houghton Mifflin. \$16.00. Did you know, we got our nine number signs and the zero from the Europeans, who got them

from the North Africans, who got them from the Arabs, who got them from the Indians of India? Nine animal friends each want to bring the perfect gift to the raja-king's birthday party but end up taking only their friendship. This is a counting book for older readers and the lovely collages and paintings beautifully evoke the setting of the fable.

**A Northern Light.** Jennifer Donnelly. Harcourt. \$17.00. 2004 Michael L. Printz Honor Book. In 1906, 16-year-old Mattie dreams of going to college and becoming a writer. She goes to work at a local resort and, through letters given to her for safe keeping by a young woman, discovers the truth about the woman's drowning. Based on a true story – in fact, this murder gave Theodore Dreiser the background material for his novel *An American Tragedy*. YOUNG ADULT.

**Old Cricket.** Lisa Wheeler. Illus. by Ponder Goembel. Atheneum. \$17.00. "...You don't get to be an *old* cricket by being a dumb bug..." By the same token, "...you don't get to be an *old* crow by being a birdbrain..." Old Cricket plays sick to avoid helping his wife around the house. She sends him off to see the doctor but instead he meets up with Old Crow and a chase for his life begins. When the adventure is over Old Cricket is only too happy to help his dear wife. Larger than life paintings make the bugs and birds seemingly bigger than the reader. A wonderful read-aloud!

**Olive's Ocean.** Kevin Henkes. Greenwillow/HarperCollins.\$17.00. Olive Barstow is dead, hit by a car while riding her bicycle. Martha is sorry but because they had not been friends Olive's death did not really touch her – until Olive's mother brings Martha a journal page that Olive had written before her death. Olive and Martha are connected in ways that change Martha's summer and probably her life. 2004 Newbery Honor Award.

**Olivia ... and the Missing Toy.** Ian Falconer. Illus. by the author. Atheneum. \$17.00. Olivia the popular pig is back for another adventure. Her favorite toy comes up missing and when Olivia searches the house she finds it torn with the thief sitting next to it! Mommy and Daddy promise Olivia a new toy but Olivia finds another resourceful solution.

**Ollie.** Olivier Dunrea. Illus. by the author. Houghton Mifflin. \$10.00. Ollie is an egg that does not want to hatch despite pleading from Gossie and Gertie. Then Gossie and Gertie try something different to get Ollie to hatch – they beg him *not* to come out of the egg and it works!

**Ollie the Stomper.** Olivier Dunrea. Illus. by the author. Houghton Mifflin. \$10.00. Gossie and Gertie are goslings with boots and they love splashing around in their red and blue boots. Ollie, another gosling, wants boots and stomps around wanting boots! Gossie and Gertie each give Ollie one boot and he hops around in them – too, too hot! They all throw off the boot and go for a swim.

**On Sand Island.** Jacqueline Briggs Martin. Illus. by David A. Johnson. Houghton Mifflin. \$16.00. In 1916 on an island in Lake Superior, a young boy Carl barter for parts and labor in order to build a boat. The story is based on fact and the real Carl grew up to be one of the finest boatmen ever to live on Sand Island. The text and illustrations are a masterful blend of grace and beauty – spare in line, soft and whimsical.

**Once upon a Time.** Story & pictures by Niki Daly. Farrar, Straus and Giroux. \$16.00. Sarie has a difficult time reading out loud in class in her South African school and dreads both school and reading. Sarie loves visiting Auntie Anna because she share her worries about reading with her. One day they sit in Auntie Anna's old beat-up car and pretend to drive far, far away and that is

when Sarie finds a dusty old copy of Cinderella. As they read the book together over the next few “rides” in the old car, Sarie’s reading skills and her confidence in reading grow. **Open Court: Let’s Read.**

**One Grain of Sand: A Lullaby.** Words & music by Peter Seeger. Paintings by Linda Wingerter. Little, Brown. \$16.00. Pete Seeger wrote this song in 1956 for his baby daughter, Tinya. It’s a perfect bedtime lullaby or read aloud that reminds us of how small we are, how enormous the world is, and how connected we all are. The lovely paintings evoke different cultures and environments.

**One Witch.** Laura Leuck. Illus. by S.D. Schnidler. Walker. \$16.00. “One witch on a hill...had an empty pot to fill.” So begins the story of one witch who seeks ingredients for her party stew from ghosts and goblins and other fiendish friends. Young readers will count along as ingredients are gathered and then count again as party-goers arrive to join the feast.

**Out of Order.** A.M. Jenkins. HarperTempest. \$16.00. Colt is a cool high school sophomore – he’s a baseball star, popular and he is in the “right” social circle at school. This part is good but Colt’s grades are terrible and his mother threatens to pull him from the team if he doesn’t bring them up to a C average. His steady girlfriend is beautiful and smart but when he finds himself actually interested in another classmate and English tutor (a girl with green hair) he begins to be confused about what is really important in life.

**Painting the Wind.** Patricia MacLachlan & Emily MacLachlan. Illus by Katy Schneider. Joanna Cotler Books/HarperCollins. \$17.00. Every summer the painters and their dogs come to paint the island where a child, the narrator of the story, lives. The landscape painter, the portrait painter, the painter of flowers – all of them and the child paint what they see. At the end of the summer when the paintings are hung in a barn for display, the child discovers that he has learned to paint the wind! Nice enrichment for **Open Court: Fine Art** units.

year-old Nancy Kington escapes from her family's Jamaican plantation with her slave friend, Minerva Sharpe and together they become pirates searching the world for treasure. YOUNG ADULT.

**Players in Pigtails.** Shana Corey. Illus. by Rebecca Gibbon. Scholastic. \$17.00. Before World War II professional sports was largely limited to men players. But in 1943, with many major league baseball players serving in the military, women were recruited for a professional women's baseball league. It was a very successful league and expanded to 10 teams before ending in the early 1950s. Includes Author's Note.

**Plum.** Tony Mitton. Illus. by Mary GrandPré. Scholastic. \$18.00. Tony Mitton presents twenty original and delightful poems that range from the characteristics of a plum to writing poetry. The illustrations are expressive, colorful and filled with humor and visual exaggeration. The artist has previously illustrated the Harry Potter books.

**A Poem of Her Own: Voices of American Women Yesterday and Today.** Edited by Catherine Clinton. Illus. by Stephen Alcorn. Abrams. \$18.00. Twenty-five women poets celebrate the joy of life and womanhood in this anthology rich with the wisdom of women poets throughout the history of America. A soft, stylized painting illustrates each poem. Includes a brief history of American poetry written by women as well as short biographies of each featured poet. Grade 6+

**Prairie Whispers.** Frances Arrington. Philomel/Penguin Putnam. \$18.00. When going for a neighbor's help for her mother and new born baby, twelve-year-old Colleen McCall comes across a deserted wagon on the South Dakota prairie. Inside the wagon she finds a dying

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their endangered status and how they are being studied and thus helped. Includes Glossary, Bibliography, Index.

**Secrets in the Fire.** Henning Mankell. Annick Press. \$18.00. When Sofia is running with her sister in a field near her village in Mozambique, she steps on a landmine and loses both her legs and her sister is killed. Sofia is fitted with two artificial legs and learns to walk again – but the road to recovery is painful – both physically and emotionally. This book is based on the story of Sofia Alface who survived despite incredible odds. YOUNG ADULT.

**Seven Chinese Sisters.** Kathy Tucker. Illus. by Grace Lin. Albert Whitman. \$16.00. Once upon a time there were seven Chinese sisters who lived together and watched out for one another. When baby Seventh Sister is snatched by a hungry dragon, her six sisters spring into action to save her.

**The Several Lives of Orphan Jack.** Sarah Ellis. Pictures by Bruno St-Aubin. Groundwood/Douglas & McIntyre. \$15.00. When Jack is placed in the Opportunities School for Orphans and Foundlings he learns to be optimistic and to do his best. He is apprenticed to a bookkeeper and assumes that he will get to take care of books. Well, he's not at all successful with numbers and decides to run away and seek his fortune. Jack ends up at a village fair where he sells ideas, whims, concepts, opinions and plans. He is wildly successful and loved by all but the mayor and as the reader says goodbye to Jack he is off once again to see the world.

**Shakespeare Bats Cleanup.** Ron Koertge. Candlewick. \$16.00. Fourteen-year-old Kevin Boland is a MVP first baseman and when he must stay home with mononucleosis, he discovers that keeping a journal and experimenting with poetry passes the time satisfactorily – in fact writing poetry helps him deal with life, love, and loss. The story is written in free verse in the first person. YOUNG ADULT.

**The Shape Game.** Anthony Browne. Illus. by the author. Farrar. \$16.00. In this autobiographical picture book Browne describes his first visit, as a child, to an art gallery. He describes the day and remembers it as the day that changed the course of his life forever. This book is a fine armchair introduction to the world of art appreciation. **Open Court: Fine Art.**

**Shutting Out the Sky: Life in the Tenements of New York 1880-1924.** Deborah Hopkinson. Illus. with archival photos. Scholastic. This is a fascinating look at New York City tenement life through the eyes of five young people who experienced tenement living between 1880 and 1924. The book covers factory work, communication barriers, and other facets of life in the tenements. Sepia archival photos will capture the student's attention and draw them further into the text for more explanations. Includes Timeline, Bibliography, Chapter Notes, Index. Excellent resource for teachers, as well as intermediate and secondary students. **Open Court: Our Country and Its People.**

**Silent Movie.** Avi. Illus. by C.B. Mordan. An Anne Schwartz Book/Atheneum. \$17.00. As you read this black and white picture book you have the sense of watching a silent movie. The first page looks like text on a silent screen and it tells how people from all over the world immigrated to the United States one hundred years ago. Among those was a family from Sweden and the first to go was Papa. When the rest of the family arrives they cannot find Papa and have a difficult time surviving – until little Gustave is recruited to be in a silent film. Meanwhile Papa is looking for his family and sees his son in a silent film and they are all reunited. This book is about immigration, silent movies, and city life in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. It would be fun to use this book and *Mack Made Movies* in tandem. **Open Court: Our Country and Its People.**

**Slightly True Story of Cedar B. Hartley (Who Planned to Live an Unusual Life).** Martine Murray. Illus. by the author. Arthur A. Levine Books/Scholastic. \$16.00. When 12-year-old Cedar loses her dog, it sets off a chain of events leading her to find a new friend, become an acrobat, and learn some bittersweet truths about family, community, and herself. YOUNG ADULT.

**Small Avalanches and Other Stories.** Joyce Carol Oates. HarperTempest/HarperCollins. \$18.00. In this collection of 12 short stories, Joyce Carol Oates explores the teenage years and the consequences of the choices that are sometimes made. YOUNG ADULT.

**Smartypants (Pete in School).** Maira Kalman. Illus. by the author. Putnam's Sons. \$16.00. Pete, the dog is left at home when Poppywise and her brother, Mookie go to school. Pets are not allowed in school – it's against the rules – but somehow Pete arrives in the classroom and breaks rules, eats the forbidden (like an encyclopedia) and is a general disaster. That night, however, Pete is able to help Poppywise and Mookie with their homework – he knows all the answers because he ate the encyclopedia earlier in the day. Wild pictures and scattered text will have kids poring through the pages to see what is happening next with Pete at school.

**Someone Says.** Carole Lexa Schaefer. Illus. by Pierr Morgan. Viking. \$16.00. A day at preschool and prior to each activity the children think of another way to do the activity – and they do. The pictures are charming and bold – who wouldn't love this preschool?!

**Spinning Spiders.** Melvin Berger. Illus. by S.D. Schindler. HarperCollins. \$17.00. This is a new addition to the Let's-Read-and-Find Science series (Stage 2). It describes the characteristics, habits, and habitats of spiders and the methods they use to trap their prey in webs. Includes an web experiment and two web sites to explore. **Open Court: City Wildlife.**

**Spitting Image.** Shutta Crum. Clarion. \$15.00. Set in 1967 in a small Kentucky town, the reader finds that twelve-year-old Jessie K. Bovey has a lot to worry about. She doesn't know who her father is; her old biddy of a grandmother keeps interfering in her life; her best friend, Robert, desperately needs new glasses that his family can't afford; and mean Dickie Whitten teases Robert until Jessie has no choice but to punch him out. This is a warm story about friendship, loyalty and boundaries.

**The Steps.** Rachel Cohn. Simon & Schuster. \$16.00. Annabel's father has remarried and she is invited to spend Christmas vacation with her "bazillion" stepbrothers, stepsisters and half siblings at their home in Australia. Annabel agrees to go but with the secret hope that she can convince him to come back to the United States. When she sees that her father is much happier in Australia she slowly becomes reconciled to the facts – but her concern now is how to share her father with his new family and not lose him.

**The Stone Lamp: Eight Stories of Hanukkah through History.** Karen Hesse. Illus. by Brian Pinkney. Hyperion. \$19.00. Each of the eight nights of Hanukkah are celebrated in one of the stories included in this large picture book. It begins with the First Night, First Light and a story set in York, England in 1190 and ends with Eighth Night, Eighth Light and a story set in Tel Aviv, Israel in 1995. Glowing scratchboard illustrations evoke the hardships and the endurance of the Jewish people through the ages.

**Stop the Train!.** Geraldine McCaughrean. HarperCollins. \$18.00. Despite the opposition of the owner of the Red Rock Railroad in 1893, the new group of ragtag settlers of Florence,

Oklahoma, are determined to build a real town. This story is a rollicking ride with wonderful characterizations.

**Straight to the Pole.** Kevin O'Malley. Illus. by the author. Walker. \$16.00. A small boy trudges through a severe winter storm on his way to school. His overactive imagination tells him he is doomed and won't survive. And then rescue help comes – with the news that school has been closed because of the storm. Hurray! It's off to play in the snow! **Open Court: Weather.**

**Stravaganza: City of Stars.** Mary Hoffman. Bloomsbury. \$18.00. Sequel to *Stravaganza: City of Masks*. In this time-slip fantasy 15-year-old Georgia purchases an Etruscan figurine of a





season nurturing them. When it's time to harvest they find that the two old potatoes have produced at least 67 potatoes! Includes a recipe for mashed potatoes.

**Uncommon Faith.**

**The Wee Free Men.** Terry Pratchett. HarperCollins. \$18.00. A rollicking tale of Tiffany Aching, a possible witch in the making, who is befriended by the Wee Free Men, small blue men with orange hair. Tiffany is a very common-sense sort of person and she realizes she is the only one who can rescue her hated baby brother from the Queen of Fairyland. Various creations from stories and dreams try to prevent her quest, but her determination is rewarded.

**What a Great Idea!: Inventions That Changed the World.** Stephen Tomecek. Illus. by Dan Stuckenschneider. Scholastic. \$19.00. This is a history of the greatest inventions in the world. Each chapter theme is a different age of technology beginning before 3500 B.C. and ending with the present – The Ancient World, The Metal Age, The Age of Discovery, The Age of Electricity and Communication, and The Age of the Atom. Includes Looking Ahead, Bibliography, Web Sites, and Invention Contest, Index.

**What a Hat!** Holly Keller. Illus. by the author. Greenwillow. \$16.00. Henry and Wizzie's cousin Newton comes for a visit but won't take off his hat! Henry thinks Newton is really weird but Wizzie thinks Newton needs a friend.

**What Do You Do with a Tail Like This?** Steve Jenkins & Robin Page. Illus. by the authors. Houghton Mifflin. \$15.00. In this interactive guessing book, the reader explores the interesting things animals can do with their eyes, ears, mouths, noses, feet and tails. The last of the book tells more about the featured animals. The illustrations are cut-paper collages. 2004 Caldecott Honor book.

**What James Likes Best.** Amy Schwartz. Illus. by the author. Atheneum. \$17.00. James goes with his parents on an express bus to visit twins, in a taxi to visit grandma, in a car to the county fair, and then walks next door with his mother for a "playdate." After each visit the reader is asked to respond as to what portion of the visit did James like best.

**Where's Pup?** Dayle Ann Dodds. Pictures by Pierre Pratt. Dial. \$13.00. What an absolutely delightful read-aloud! Rhyming text, very concise, vibrant illustrations, a touch of suspense and a surprise ending. The kids will be shouting for MORE!

**While We Were Out.** Ho Baek Lee. Illus. by the author. Kane/Miller. \$16.00. The family leaves for overnight, leaving the balcony door unlocked. The pet rabbit enters the house and spends the night trying out all the things she has seen the family do. She returns to her place on the balcony before the family returns and they will never know she was in the house – unless they discover the many little clues the rabbit has left behind.

**The White House: An Illustrated History.** Catherine O'Neill Grace. Illus. with photos. Introduction by Mrs. Laura Bush. Scholastic. Published in cooperation with the White House Historical Association. \$20.00. This is a book for every library – it is current, written with interesting text that is accompanied with an abundance of both archival and recent photos.

**Who Came First? New Clues to Prehistoric Americans.** Patricia Lauber. Illus. with photos, maps and paintings. National Geographic. \$19.00. This photo-essay covers recent archaeological findings about the first people to settle in the Americas, where they came from and how they arrived. The reader will go back in time almost 30,000 years to see how civilizations developed in the Americas. The photos are large, in color and clear and the text is not dense and a nice size for intermediate and secondary readers. Includes Chronology, Resources, Index.

