

Notables 2007

NOT AVAILABLE FOR EXHIBIT

@ *3-D ABC: a Sculptural Alphabet*, Raczka, Bob, \$15.00, Millbrook, Grades K-5

Presents striking photographs of sculptures that focus attention on three-dimensional artwork of different styles and materials. Each sculpture is captioned with the artist's name and the work's title. Accompanied by child friendly comments that add interest.

@ *Adventures of Odysseus*, Lupton, Hugh, \$18.00, Barefoot (2006), Grades 3-6

An illustrated adaptation of Homer's classic tale of Odysseus and his adventures after the long Trojan War. The text is framed with bright mosaic-style illustrations of the heroes and monsters, in watercolor, gouache, and gold ink. **Open Court: Ancient Civilizations**

@ *At Gleason's Gym*, Lewin, Ted, \$18.00, Roaring Book, Grades 2-5

Looks at the action at Gleason's Gym in Brooklyn through the eyes of Sugar Boy, a nine-year-old boxing champion, who is following in the footsteps of former Gleason's trainees like Muhammad Ali and Jake La Motta. Illustrated with rich watercolor artwork. Presents a view of boxing as a sport for young children-both boys and girls-as well as adults.

@ *Babies in the Bayou*, Arnosky, Jim, \$17.00, Putnam, Grades K-3

There are many babies in the bayou, and even though they might have sharp white teeth, hard shells, webbed feet, or quick claws, their mothers still need to protect them. Told through poetic text and illustrated with soft acrylics, the various baby animals are presented. **Open Court: Animals**

@ *Ballerina Dreams: a True Story*, Thompson, Lauren, \$17.00, Feiwel & Friends, Grades PreK-2

Focuses on five little girls who long desperately to

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Young children use their imaginations and their art supplies to pretend to be different kinds of dragons. They go *dragon dancing* through a playground transformed into Asian-influenced

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It's Snake who eventually organizes Mouse's rescue, which Mouse apologizing to Snake.

@ *Hiromi's Hands*, Barasch, Lynne, \$18.00, Lee & Low, Grades K-3

This picture book biography tells the true story of Japanese American Hiromi Suzuki, who, with the help of her father, became one of the first female sushi chefs in New York. The first-person narrative is accompanied by ink-and-watercolor art showing a variety of things from the fish market to the small, delicious pictures of the many kinds of sushi she learns to make. **Open Court: Our Country and Its People**

@ *Home of the Brave*, Applegate, Katherine, \$17.00, Feiwel And Friends, Grades 5-8

Kek, an African refugee, is confronted by many strange things at the Minneapolis home of his aunt and cousin, as well as in his fifth-grade classroom, and longs for his missing mother, but finds comfort in the company of a cow and her owner.

@ *Houdini: The Handcuff King*, Lutes, Jason & Nick Bertozzi, \$17.00, Hyperion, Grades 5-8

A brief biography of escape artist Harry Houdini written in graphic comic format that reveals the secret of some of his stunts, including his jump from Harvard Bridge in Cambridge, Mass. on May 1, 1908.

@ *How to Catch a Fish*, Frank, John, \$22.00, Roaring Book Press, Grades K-2

Rhyming text and illustrations describe the ways fish are caught in various locations around the world. Illustrated with handsome, full-page oil paintings that are rendered in an impressionistic style bringing to life the atmospheres of watery environments. Pays tribute to the sport, skill, craft, livelihood, and tradition of angling.

@ *Hurricane Force*, Treaster, Joseph B., \$17.00, Kingfisher, Grades 4-8

This is a sobering and informative book, with the descriptions of events surrounding Hurricane Katrina meticulously detailed. The varied photographs help to tell the story. Presents the science

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@ *Magic Horse of Han Gan, The*, Chen, Jiang Hong, \$15.00, FSG (2006), Grades 1-5

A painter named Han Gan draws a horse that jumps off the page. The creature goes from the canvas to the battlefield until, overcome by sadness, he jumps into a different painting. The elegant illustrations on silk were inspired by the real Han Gan, a classical Chinese artist who lived over twelve hundred years ago and specialized in painting equine scenes. *Horn Book*

@ *Magic Rabbit, The*, Cate, Annette, \$14.00, Candlewick, Grades PreK-2

Ray the street performing magician, and Bunny, his assistant and best friend, become separated while performing, which leaves Bunny all alone in the big city. Bunny spends several hours hopping around the city before he finds a trail of gold stars and is reunited with Ray. Illustrated with cross-hatched ink-and-watercolor illustrations, all is black and white save for the telltale yellow stars.

@ *Max Counts His Chickens*, Wells, Rosemary, \$16.00, Viking, Grades PreK-2

Grandma must quickly think of a way to make things fair for Max after Ruby finds all ten of the hidden marshmallow chicks on Easter morning. The fun of counting, along with the humor in the little rabbit's search strategies, will entertain listeners.

@ *Make Your Mark, Franklin Roosevelt*, St. George, Judith, \$15.00, Philomel, Grades 2-5

Profiles the childhood and adolescent years of President Franklin Roosevelt describing the many influences on his life and political career. Illustrated with ink-and-watercolor artwork that resembles political cartooning, using oversized heads and exaggerated perspectives that add humor to the story.

@ *Midsummer Knight, A*

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series of adventures and eventually helps the alien and his people. Bright graphic-novel-style wordless panels show Polo as he goes from one fantastic series of improbable adventures to another.

@ *Prairie Grasslands*, Lynch, Wayne, \$15.00, NorthWord (2006), Grades 5-8

Six chapters cover the history, geography, climate, ecology, terrain, flora, and fauna of the grasslands and the mountains. Stunning close-up photographs highlight both the changing scenery and the lives of resident animals in these two dramatically different ecosystems.

@ *Real Benedict Arnold, The*, Murphy, Jim, \$18.00, Clarion, Grades 5-8

Presents a comprehensive biography and history of Benedict Arnold that examines many of his heroic deeds and contributions to the Revolutionary cause before he decided to switch sides. Includes numerous reproductions of paintings, engravings and drawings sprinkled throughout.

Open Court: Making a New Nation

@ *Red Moon at Sharpsburg*, Wells, Rosemary, \$17.00, Viking, Grades 7+

Even though the odds are against her and the Civil War has ruined her home and given her a view of the darker side of humanity, thirteen-year-old India Moody continues to aspire to become a scientist and attend Oberlin College. Wells has created a sense of what the North and the South endured during the Civil War by interweaving stories from both sides, and gives a horrifying picture of medical practices and superstitions of the times.

@ *Rising Star of Rusty Nail*

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blond, blue-eyed children to a school in Poland to be trained as "proper Germans" for adoption by German families, but all the while she remembers her true name and history.

@ *Standard Hero Behavior*, Anderson, John David, \$16.00, Clarion, Grades 6+

When fifteen-year-old Mason Quayle finds out that their town of Darlington is about to be attacked by orcs, goblins, ogres, and trolls, he goes in search of some heroes to save the day.

@ *Steven Caney's Ultimate Building Book*, Caney, Steven, \$30.00, Running Pr., Grades 4-8

Examines the history and construction of various types of structures, including bridges, skyscrapers, and domes; and provides instructions for related projects. Portions of this book are especially useful for reference facts and science projects.

@ *Story of Charles Atlas Strong Man, The*, McCarthy, Megan, \$19.00, Grades 1-3

An illustrated account of the life of Angelo Siciliano, an Italian immigrant who, tired of being pushed around, developed a program of physical fitness that transformed his life and earned him the name Charles Atlas.

@ *Sugar Cane: a Caribbean Rapunzel*, Storace, Patricia, \$16.00, Jump at the Sun, Grades 2-5

Taken from her parents because of a craving for sugar cane, a baby is raised by a conjure-woman in this version of the story set in the Caribbean. "As Sugar Cane grows, she learns music from a ghost teacher, an angel from a heavenly choir, a 500-year-old Spanish Gypsy, and a "jazz master from New Orleans." One evening the lonely girl's voice attracts King, a young man renowned for his songs. Raul Colon's colored-pencil-and-watercolor illustrations mirror the lyrical text." *School Library Journal*

@ *Surfer of the Century: the life of Duke Kahanamoku*, Crowe, Ellie, \$19.00, Lee & Low, Grades 3-6

A biography of Hawaiian Duke Kahanamoku, five-time Olympic swimming champion from the early 1900s who is also considered worldwide as the father of modern surfing.

@ *Talented Clementine, The*, Pennypacker, Sara, \$15.00, Hyperion, Grades 2-5

In her second adventure, eight-year-old Clementine, convinced that she has no talents, tries to find a way to avoid participating in the class talent show. Illustrated with line drawings. This is an early chapter-book that will have readers jumping at the chance to spend another eventful week with Clementine.

@ *Terrible Storm*, Hurst, Carol Otis, \$17.00, Greenwillow, Grades K-3

A child's two grandfathers relate their boyhood experiences of the Massachusetts blizzard of 1888, during which each was stuck for three days doing what he disliked the most. One was stranded alone in a barn, the other in a crowded inn. Both say that his was the "worst possible

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1607: A New Look at Jamestown, Lange, Karen E., \$18.00, National Geog., 2007, Grades 4-7

Describes the new research and archeological discoveries at Jamestown and demonstrates how our knowledge and historians' views can change. Clearly written and well illustrated showing how previous beliefs about the Jamestown Settlement are erroneous. Provides an excellent account of the Native American tribes' history and relationships before and after the arrival of the colonists. A remarkable account of the process of colonization with all the problems and challenges they faced. Essential U.S. Colonial History resource. **Open Court: A Changing America**

17 Things I'm Not Allowed to do Anymore, Offill, Jenny, \$16.00, Random, Grades K-3

The young narrator lists seventeen things she is not allowed to do after she staples her brother's hair to his pillow ("I am not allowed to use the stapler anymore"), walks backward across the pedestrian crossing ("I am not allowed to walk backward to school anymore"), and shows Joey Whipple her underpants when she does handstands in the schoolyard ("I am not allowed to show Joey Whipple my underpants anymore.") Illustrated with a delightful combination of pen-and-ink and computer-generated illustrations that incorporate actual objects.

Adventures of Marco Polo, The, Freedman, Russell, \$18.00, Scholastic, 2006, Grades 5-8

Traces the travels of Marco Polo via an engaging text and by using primary and secondary sources. Presents a discussion as to the controversy as to whether he indeed went to China. Illustrations include original artwork and complemented by many historic illustrations.

Alabama Moon, Key, Watt, \$17.00, Farrar, Grades 5-8

After the death of his father, ten-year-old Moon Blake is removed from the Alabama forest where he was raised and sent to a boy's home, where, for the first time, he has contact with the outside world and learns about friendship, love, and humanity.

Alchemyst: the Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel, The, Scott, Michael, \$17.00, Delacorte, Grades 5-8

Fifteen-year-old twins, Sophie and Josh, find themselves caught up in the deadly struggle between rival alchemists, Nicholas Flamel and John Dee, over the possession of an ancient book that holds the secret formulas for alchemy and everlasting life.

An Inconvenient Truth: the Crisis of Global Warming, Gore, Al, \$23.00, Viking, Grades 5+

An adaptation of the book in which former Vice President Al Gore examines the climate crisis that is threatening the future of the planet, describes what the world's governments are doing to correct the problem, and explains why the problem should be taken more seriously. Includes photographs, maps, and graphs. **Open Court: Ecology**

Animal Poems, Worth, Valerie, \$17.00, Farrar, 2007, Grades 3-8

An illustrated collection of twenty-three poems about snails, whales, bats, camels, and other animals. The poems are presented on beautifully designed spreads, animated by Steve Jenkins' signature cut paper collage artwork.

Anne Hutchinson's Way, Atkins, Jeannine, Farrar, \$17.00, Grades 2-5

A fictionalized episode from the life of Anne Hutchinson, who arrived with her family in Massachusetts in 1634, but was soon banished for holding religious meetings and teaching ideas with which Puritan ministers disagreed. Illustrated with dramatic and detailed photo-quality paintings. **Open Court: A Changing America**

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Apple Doll, The, Kleven, Elisa, Farrar, \$16.00, Grades K-2

Lizzy is scared to start school, so she makes a doll out of an apple from her favorite tree to take with her on the first day and keep her company. Illustrated with bright, textured and bold artwork with watercolor, ink, colored pencil and collage. Includes instructions for making an apple doll.

Open Court: Making Friends

Apple Pie that Papa Baked, The, Thompson, Lauren, \$16.00, Scholastic, Grades PreK-2

A father makes his daughter an apple pie and all of the farm animals want a taste. A cumulative story told in the style of *The House that Jack Built*, it is illustrated in a bright, folk art style. **Open**

Court: Let's Read

Arrival, The, Tan, Shaun, \$20.00, Scholastic, Grades 5-8

In this wordless graphic novel, a man leaves his homeland and sets off for a new country, where he must build a new life for himself and his family. The artwork is rendered in sepia-toned panels with early 20th century dress and architecture, and even though the setting seems familiar, it is beset with fantastical images, bizarre forms of air transport and alien animals. Readers will begin to understand the unsettling experience of being alone in a new land.

Artist to Artist: 23 Major Illustrators Talk to Children About their Art, Contributing editors, Patricia Lee Gauch ... et al., \$30.00, Philomel, Grades 4+

Selected bibliography of the artists. Maurice Sendak, Rosemary Wells, Eric Carle, and twenty other children's book illustrators speak informally to children about their art and careers. Includes fold-out pages with photographs of early work, studios, materials, sketches, and finished works, as well as self-portraits.

At Night, Bean, Jonathan, \$15.00, Farrar, Grades PreK-1

A sleepless city girl imagines what it would be like to get away from snoring family members and curl up alone with one's thoughts in the cool night air under wide-open skies. Illustrated with silvery, ink-and-watercolor pictures.

Banjo Granny, Busse, Sarah Martin, \$16.00, Houghton (2006), Grades PreK-2

Baby Owen's grandmother learns that he is wiggly, jiggly, and all-around giggly for bluegrass music, so with her banjo, she travels by curious means to visit and play for him. Warm watercolor, gouache, and pastel-pencil illustrations show a variety of scenes as Granny travels and baby Owen eagerly awaits her arrival.

Bearwalker, Bruchac, Joseph, \$17.00, HarperCollins, Grades 5-8

Although he is the littlest student in his class, thirteen-year-old Baron Braun calls upon the strength and wisdom of his Mohawk ancestors to face both man and beast when he tries to get help for his classmates, who are being terrorized during a school field trip in the Adirondacks

Beauty and the Beast,

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Billy Creekmore, Porter, Tracey, \$17.00, HarperCollins, Grades 5-8

One day a stranger comes to claim Billy Creekmore from the Guardian Angels Home for Boys; and he embarks on a cross-country journey in search of his past, his future, and his own true self. Told in a child-true voice, this book makes the shocking history about the lives of children at the turn of the last century come alive for today's readers.

Birthday Box, The, Patricelli, Leslie, \$16.00, Candlewick, Grades PreK-1

An imaginative young child has a wonderful time playing with his birthday present and the box it came in. Dynamic, acrylic solid-colored backdrops, upon which the box throws its significant shadow, add a sense of fun. This is a perfect birthday book for a toddler, along with a box, of course! It would also work well for storytime.

Black Cat Bone: The Life of Blues Legend Robert Johnson Lewis, J. Patrick, , \$20.00, Creative Editions, Grades 6+

Poems by J. Patrick Lewis, illustrations by Gary Kelley, and his own lyrics help chronicle the life and career of jazz musician Robert Johnson. Mixed-media illustrations in blues and browns contribute to the mood of the text. **Open Court: Beyond the Notes**

Bow-Wow Bugs a Bug, Newgarden, Mark, \$13.00, Harcourt, Grades 1-3

A wordless circular story in which a small dog grows annoyed by the bug in his environs and sets out on an eventful trek after it, down his street. Simple, bold, expressive illustrations, outlined with heavy black line, are combined with comic-strip panels.

Bronzeville Boys and Girls, Brooks, Gwendolyn, \$17.00, HarperCollins, Grades 3-6

A collection of 34 illustrated poems by a Pulitzer Prize winning author that reflects the experiences and feelings of African American children living in big cities. First published in 1956, this edition features bright new artwork by Faith Ringgold. **Open Court: Heritage**

Casey Back at Bat, Gutman, Dan, \$17.00, HarperCollins, Grades K-4

It's a new season for the Mudville baseball team, and Casey has a chance to redeem himself. He hits a fly ball that flies over the wall and out of the park and just keeps going. The ball flies across the Atlantic, hits the tower in Pisa and heads to Egypt. Streaking through time, it inadvertently sends dinosaurs to their ultimate fate and encounters astronauts before heading back to Earth. At the end "there's still no joy in Mudville," but this comes across as a terrific read-aloud, and it will have kids cheering. **Open Court: Games**

Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, Williams, Marcia, ret., \$17.00, Candlewick, Grades 4-8

An energetic retelling of nine tales by Geoffrey Chaucer in which a group of pilgrims in fourteenth-century England tell each other stories as they travel on a pilgrimage to the cathedral at Canterbury. Quotes in medieval English are featured in dialogue bubbles, while the stories themselves are told in clear modern prose with a 1956, this the-ink Tf sp it sf13.918 0 TD.0006.579.0012 Tw[Kelle

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although it would be easy to grab her, the child makes a more mature decision and resists the temptation. **Open Court: Country Life**

Close to the Wind: the Beaufort Scale, Malone, Peter, \$16.00, Putnam, Grades 4-6

Describes Francis Beaufort's creation of the Beaufort wind force scale in 1810; presents fictional diary entries by a twelve-year-old nineteenth-century midshipman that describe conditions aboard ship at each of the scale's twelve levels; and includes facts on the construction of a man-of-war and the daily lives of English sailors. Illustrated with full page paintings.

Comets, Stars, the Moon and Mars: Space Poems and Paintings, Florian, Doug, \$15.00, Harcourt, Grades K-5

A collection of twenty whimsical poems about comets, the stars, moon, and the planets. Illustrations are rendered in blues and flame reds, with collage accents. **Open Court: Astronomy**

Cracker! The Best Dog in Vietnam, Kadohata, Cynthia, \$17.00, Atheneum, Grades 5-8

Based on a true story, this novel chronicles the life of Cracker, an intelligent, yet stubborn bomb-sniffing German shepherd, his military handler, Rick, a young soldier in Vietnam, and Cracker's boy, Willie. The story alternates viewpoints; from Cracker to Willie and then to Rick. Hellish conditions of the Vietnam War are realistically depicted.

Darkwing, Opper, Kenneth, \$17.00, EOS, Grades 5-8

Taking place 65 million years ago, Dusk, the world's first bat, must lead his colony to safety in a time of changing species. A prequel to the *Silverwing* series.

Deep Cut, The, Spain, Susan R., \$17.00, M. Cavendish (2006), Grades 5-8

Considered "slow" by his father, Lonzo tries his best to help his family in Culpeper, Virginia, during the Civil War and, in the process, comes to some decisions about how to live his life. A fast read that should hold readers.

Diary of a Fly, Cronin, Doreen, \$17.00, Joanna Cotler Bks., Grades PreK-3

A young fly discovers, day by day, that there is a lot to learn about being an insect, including the dangers of flyswatters and that heroes come in all shapes and sizes.

Dimity Dumpty: the Story of Humpty's Little Sister, Graham, Bob, \$16.00, Candlewick, Grades PreK-2

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shows them harmoniously sharing a space. Illustrated with Jenkins signature dynamic and detailed collage artwork showing dogs and cats of all shapes and sizes and packed with personality.

Dragon's Keep, Carey, Janet Lee, \$17.00, Harcourt, Grades 6+

A medieval fantasy set in 1145 A.D. that features beautiful young Rosalind, who will be the twenty-first Pendragon Queen of Wilde Island. She has much to accomplish to fulfill her destiny, as foretold by Merlin, while hiding a dragon's claw she was born with that reflects a dark secret from her mother. This is a fantasy adventure featuring a strong female character that is difficult to put down.

Dragonsdale, Drake, Salamanda, \$17.00, ChickenHouse/Scholastic, Grades 3-6

Cara loves taking care of the dragons in her father's stable even though she has been forbidden to ride since the accident that caused her mother's death, but rather than just watch as all her friends begin preparing their dragons for the Island Championships, she decides to train the wild dragon Skydancer in secret.

Dumpster Diver, The, Wong, Janet S., \$17.00, Candlewick, Grades K-3

Once a month, every week in the summer, Steve the electrician puts on special gear and, with the help of youngsters who live in his building, dives into a dumpster seeking useful objects that they can transform into imaginative new ones. This humorous adventure will cause young readers to look at the castoffs in their neighborhood with new eyes. **Open Court: Imagination**

Edwardo, The Horriblest Boy in the Whole Wide World, Burningham, John, 17.00, Knopf, 2006, Gr K-3

Edwardo is a pretty typical kid, somewhat messy, clumsy, noisy, and sometimes a little rascal. Adults around him begin to call him the horriblest boy and he rises to the occasion. When he accidentally does something kind, he begins to receive positive reinforcement and his habits change for the better. Witty illustrations compliment the story. Provides insight on the impact of hastily chosen words.

Edward's Eyes, MacLachlan, Patricia, \$15.00, Grades 4-6

Jake and Edward are brothers in a large and close family that loves baseball, music, books, and each other. When Edward unexpectedly dies, the entire family suffers, especially Jake. When the parents donate Edward's organs, Jake has a difficult time until he realizes that his brother's wonderful eyes have gone to a perfect recipient.

Elijah of Buxton, Curtis, Christopher Paul, \$17.00, Scholastic, Grades 3-6

Eleven-year-old Elijah Freeman, the first free-born child in Buxton, Canada, which is a haven for slaves fleeing the American South in 1859, uses his wits and skills to try to bring to justice the lying preacher who has stolen money that was to be used to buy a family's freedom.

Emmy and the Incredible Shrinking Rat, Jonelle, Lynne, \$17.00, Holt, Grades 3-6

When Emmy discovers that she and her formerly loving parents are being drugged by their evil nanny with rodent potions that can change people in frightening ways, she and some new friends must try everything possible to return things to normal.

The End, LaRochelle, David, \$17.00, Scholastic, Grades K-3

A circular story told in reverse, starting with the happy ending, a wedding attended by a host of interesting fairy-tale characters. This play on traditional fairy tales provides an opportunity for children to predict the unexpected ending! Illustrated with handsome and humorous artwork, this is a good read-aloud choice. **Open Court: Sharing Stories**

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Heat Wave, Spinelli, Eileen, \$16.00, Harcourt, Grades K-3

Abigail, Ralphie, and the other citizens of Lumberville struggle to endure a week-long heat wave in a time long before air conditioners. "Townspeople, kids, and dogs try a variety of ways to cool down and finally all camp out on the riverbank dreaming of a break in the weather. Stark white pages provide the perfect backdrop for fresh, vivid watercolor cartoons, with the final page displaying splashes of refreshing blue raindrops." *School Library Journal*

Henry's Freedom Box: a True Story from the Underground Railroad, Levine, Ellen, , \$17.00, Scholastic, Grades 2-5

A poignant story about a young boy growing up as a slave, sold and sent away from his family, and ultimately separated from his wife and children. He decides to mail himself in a box to a sympathetic supporter in Philadelphia. With the help of a white doctor, he is successful in his adventure. Illustrated with full spread paintings. **Open Court: Survival**

Here's a Little Poem: a Very First Book of Poetry,

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has bought, their lives will change for the better.

Imagine Harry, Klise, Kate, \$16.00, Harcourt, Grades PreK-2

After Little Rabbit starts school, he sees less and less of his invisible friend, Harry, and finally tells his mother that Harry moved away. **Open Court: Finding Friends**

Incredible Book Eating Boy, The, Jeffers, Oliver, \$17.00, Philomel, Grades K-3

Henry loves to eat books, until he begins to feel quite ill and decides that maybe he could do something else with the books he has been devouring. Illustrated with artwork constructed from the pages of old discarded books and a big bite out of the back cover.

Invention Of Hugo Cabret: a Novel in Words and Pictures, The, Selznick, Brian, \$23.00, Scholastic, Grades 4-8

Part graphic novel, part narrative, this is a fantasy that grabs the reader and holds him tight. Hugo is an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931. He meets a mysterious toy-seller and his goddaughter and his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized. Generously illustrated with detailed silvery pencil drawings.

Jack and the Beanstalk, Nesbit, E., \$14.00, Candlewick (2006), Grades K-3

An elegant retelling of the English fairytale, originally published in 1908 in *The Old Nursery Stories*, using rich language to depict an endearing, but lazy, ne'er-do-well who turns folly into triumph. Realistic pencil and watercolor illustrations.

Jack Plank Tells Tales, Babbitt, Natalie, \$16.00, Scholastic, Grades 2-6

Because he is too nice to be a pirate, Jack Plank looks for a new career, but each night he tells tales of why the one job he looked into that day is wrong. Some of the tales, which beg to be read aloud, will leave listeners arguing about what really happened while others will make them smile.

Jazz on a Saturday Night, Dillon, Leo & Diane, \$17.00, Blue Sky Press, Grades 2-4

A crowd gathers on a Saturday night to groove to an evening of jazz played by a "Dream Team"

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Legend of Lao Tzu and the Tao Te Ching, The,

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Lucky Jake, Addy, Sharon, \$17.00, Houghton, Grades K-3

While panning for gold with his Pa, Jake adopts a pig that he names Dog. A chain of events is set off that leads to prosperity. While Pa talks about good luck, Jake believes more in action. Illustrated with pastel artwork that presents different perspectives.

Mama for Owen, A, Bauer, Marion Dane, \$16.00, Simon & Schuster, Grades PreK-1

When the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami separates a young African hippopotamus from his mother, he finds a new snuggle partner in Mzee the giant tortoise. Based on a true story. "Butler's feathery illustrations, featuring smiling, doe-eyed animals rendered in soft tones of butter, rose, and lavender, hint at the sunny outcome even during the story's troubling opening scenes." *Booklist*

Open Court: Finding Friends

Marley: a Dog Like no Other, Grogan, John, \$18.00, Grades 4-7

A special adaptation of the author's book *Marley & Me* for young readers, in which he shares the story of his golden retriever Marley, and tells of the love his family has for the dog. Written with real affection and humor, this tender tribute to a dog "with stinky breath and bad manners" will win the hearts of even those who aren't dog lovers.

Me I Am!, Prelutsky, Jack, \$16.00, Farrar, Grades PreK-2

An illustrated, children's poem which celebrates individuality. Bright, energetic illustrations celebrate the kids' distinctly different interests (rollerskating, examining bugs, dancing). **Open Court PreK: I'm Special**

Mercy Watson Fights Crime, DiCamillo, Kate, \$13.00, Candlewick (2006), Grades K-3

Mercy the pig's love of buttered toast leads to the capture of a small thief who would rather be a cowboy. Another adventure in an early chapter book that will engage beginning readers and build

Mr. Pusskins: A Love Story, Lloyd, Sam, \$15.00, Atheneum, Grades PreK-1

Mr. Pusskins is a cat full of full attitude. He hates doing ordinary cat things such as playing with his owner Emily but a night out on the streets in search of adventure makes him reconsider the advantages of a loving home. The bright illustrations capture this fluffy cat in all of his grouchy glory. Good read aloud choice.

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Mysterious Benedict Society, The, Stewart, Trenton Lee, , \$17.00, Little, Brown, Grades 4-8

A curious newspaper ad advertising special opportunities for the gifted catches the eye of orphan Reynie Muldoon. He is selected for a crack team to complete an important mission, to infiltrate the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened and to discover its secrets. In addition to grand adventure, the book also tackles personal concerns: abandonment, family, loyalty, and facing one's fears. Smart kids are the natural audience for this; but, read aloud, the novel will attract many others as well.

Nini Here and There, Lobel, Anita, \$18.00, Greenwillow, Grades PreK-2

Fearing at first that her family is going on vacation without her, Nini the cat ends up traveling with her owners to their new home. Illustrated with vibrant watercolor artwork, this is a comforting story about new beginnings.

No Talking, Clements, Andrew, \$16.00, S&S, Grades 3-6

The noisy fifth grade boys of Laketon Elementary School challenge the equally loud fifth grade girls to a "no talking" contest. The experiment takes on a life of its own, as the collective action turns into civil disobedience when the oppressive principal decides to put a stop to it. By the end, the two camps have become more allies than rivals.

Not in Room 204, Riggs, Shannon, \$16.00, Whitman,

A teacher tells the children in her class to talk to an adult if they are being sexually abused. Regina arrives early at Room 204 to confide her secret, which involves her father. The story ends on a hopeful note. The strength in this book is in the sensitivity of its presentation. Illustrated with clear, bright illustrations. A helpful picture book to raise children's awareness of sexual abuse without raising anxiety.

Nothing But Trouble: the Story of Althea Gibson, Stauffacher, Sue, \$17.00, Knopf, Grades 2-5

Explores the life and achievements of Althea Gibson. "Bursting across Couch's impressionistic Harlem street scenes in a blaze of color, the rangy, grinning young Gibson, the first African-American tennis player, male or female, to win at Wimbledon, seems ready to jump ,aca

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a truckload of bananas and all the characters gather for a banana feast! A good selection for teaching prediction skills.

One Well: the Story of Water on Earth, Strauss, Rochelle, \$18.00, Kids Can Pr., Grades 3-6

Tells the story of Earth's water, introducing the concept of the planet's water as being contained in one well, and discussing the importance of water to survival of plants, animals, and people, recycling, access to water, pollution, and conservation. Illustrated with bright paintings that often present a birds-eye view. **Open Court: Ecology**

Orange Pear Apple Bear, Gravett, Emily, \$13.00, S&S, Grades PreK-1

Using just 5 words, four in the title and a concluding word, a charming and unique story is born. The simple text explores concepts of color, shape, and sequence as the bear plays with and ultimately eats the orange, pear, and apple. Illustrated in loose line and watercolor art.

Our Liberty Bell, Magaziner, Henry Jonas, \$16.00, Holiday House, Grades 4-6

Tells the story of the Liberty Bell, discussing its role in the origins of the United States, and looking at how it became a symbol of American freedom. Illustrated with black line drawings that bring a flavor of the Revolutionary period and beyond. **Open Court: Making a New Nation**

Perfect Day, A, Charlip, Remy, \$18.00, Greenwillow, Grades PreK-2

“A child and parent explore all the possibilities of a single day together, taking walks, eating, playing, painting, staring up at the clouds, and contemplating books they've read. The simple rhyming text floats by like a breeze, and the watercolor illustrations gently glow.”- *Hornbook*

Notables 2007

Probuditi!, Van Allsburg, Chris, \$19.00, Houghton (2006), Grades K-3

On his birthday, Calvin and his friend Rodney see a magician perform, then copy him by hypnotizing Calvin's little sister, but the joke is on them when they are unable to snap her out of it. While Calvin is howling at the memory of his sister "barking and drooling," it is she who has the very satisfying last laugh (offstage). Illustrated with textured pastel and pencil drawings. Another excellent read aloud choice.

Quest for the Tree Kangaroo: An Expedition to the Cloud Forest of New Guinea, Montgomery, Sy, \$18.00, Houghton (2006), Grades 4-8

Full-color, illustrated photographs provide detailed information on the search for the tree kangaroo in Papua New Guinea's cloud forest, and describes its habits, behaviors, and characteristics. Presents an exemplary description of science field work. **Open Court: Ecology**

Rainstorm, Lehman, Barbara, Houghton, \$14.00, Grades 2-4

In this wordless picture book, a boy finds a mysterious key which leads him on a rainy day adventure. Illustrated in brightly colored, simple watercolor, gouache, and ink artwork that combines full-page images, spreads, and pages of sequential panels. This appealing rainy day tale will stir the imagination of those who have ever looked for something to do on a gloomy day.

Ready, Set, Skip, O'Conner, Jane, \$17.00, Viking, Grades PreK-1

Told in rhyming text, this is the story of a little girl who is an accomplished whistler, soap-bubble blower, and skater, just can't skip. Mom comes to the rescue and shows her a special trick that is successful. Bright artwork compliments the story. **PreK Open Court: I'm Special, Open Court: Keep Trying**

Reconstruction, Ruggiero, Adriane, \$26.00, Benchmark, 2007, Grades 5-8

Various primary source documents, such as diary entries, newspaper accounts, political speeches, laws, popular songs, and personal letters, present the history of the era of Reconstruction in the United States. Includes discussion questions.

Saving the Buffalo, Marrin, Albert, \$17.00, Scholastic (2006), Grades 4-8

Provides vivid details as the history of the buffalo is traced, tells how they reached near-extinction in the nineteenth century, discusses the various causes, and explains the slow recovery with the help of the early conservationist movement. Illustrated with a wide variety of primary sources, photographs, and period paintings. **Open Court: Going West**

Second Is A Hiccup: A Child's Book of Time, Hutchins, Hazel, A \$17.00, Scholastic, Grades K-2

Playful rhyming text helps children comprehend units of time, presenting lively examples of what can happen in the span of a second, a minute, an hour, a day, a week, a month, a year, and a whole childhood. Illustrated with bright watercolor artwork making this an excellent read-aloud

Notables 2007

Shark Girl, Bingham, Kelly, \$19.00, Candlewick, Grades 6+

“Conversations, letters, and prose poems tell the story of fifteen-year-old artist Jane's recovery from a shark attack and adjustment to life as an amputee. We read letters from sympathizers (after a bystander's video is televised) and feel the sting of pity. Jane's slowly growing comfort with herself is realistically portrayed. Nicely drawn relationships round out the involving, affecting story.” *Horn Book* **Open Court: Perseverance**

Skyscraper, Curlee, Lynn, \$18.00, Atheneum, Grades 4-8

Presents a history of skyscrapers around the world including the Pyramids of Giza, the Eiffel Tower, and the Empire State Building in New York. Nearly every spread features a full page of text opposite an impressive acrylic illustration.

Slavery and Resistance, Jordan, Anne D., \$24.00, Benchmark, Grades 5-8

Describes the history of slavery in the Americas from the early colonial times to the end of the Civil War and Emancipation. Describes Jamestown and how both whites and blacks, servants and slaves, worked the land. The information flows seamlessly from detailing how African Americans came to this new country to explaining how slavery spread and took hold, and describing slavery during the Revolution and what life was like for slaves in both the North and the South. Illustrated with paintings and photos. **Open Court: Survival**

Slugs In Love, Pearson, Susan, \$17.00, M. Cavendish (2006), Grades PreK-3

Two garden slugs write love poems in slime to one another but have trouble actually meeting. The artwork incorporates markers, colored pencils and Photoshop to comically characterize the slugs with accessories so they can be easily identified.

Snow Baby: The Arctic Childhood of Admiral Robert E. Peary's Daring Daughter, The, Kirkpatrick, Katherine, \$17.00, Holiday, Grades 4-8

Notables 2007

washed in muted colors, resemble lithographs and have an old-fashioned look.

Today and Today, Issa, Kobayashi, \$17.00, Scholastic, Grades 1-3

A collection of short illustrated haiku poems that tell of an ordinary year in the life of one family, and that describe each season. Each section is introduced by the changing branch of a cherry tree and illustrated with artwork that brings a sense of quiet and contemplation. **Open Court: Weather (Seasonal Patterns)**

Today at the Blue-Bird Café: a Branchfull of Birds, Ruddell, Deborah, \$16.00, McElderry, Grades

A collection of twenty-two children's poems about birds including blue jays, toucans, and cockatoos. Each poem is presented along with a humorous watercolor illustration, and together they address characteristics of different birds. Use as an introduction to poetry, or in beginning a research project on birds.

Top Job, The, Kimmel, Elizabeth, \$16.00, Dutton, Grades 1-4

On Career Day, a young girl entertains the class with a description of her father's exciting job as light bulb changer at the top of the Empire State Building. Brings in themes of standing up for yourself, responding to rudeness and bragging, and girls who are talented mathematicians. Clear, bright illustrations and a great read aloud. **Open Court: Our Neighborhood at Work**

Tracking Trash: Flotsam, Jetsam, and the Science of Ocean Motion, Burns, Loree G., \$18.00, Houghton, Grades 5-8

Tells about an incident in 1990, where containers

Notables 2007

Way Down Deep, White, Ruth, \$16.00, Farrar, Grades 4-7

A warmhearted story set in 1954 in Way Down Deep, a town "cradled between the hills in a place that later became known as West Virginia." Ruby June, a foundling, is happily living with Miss Arbutus at the local boarding house when the mystery of Ruby's past begins to unravel. A thoughtful tale that offers humor, mystery, and a feel-good ending that will please readers.

What Happens on Wednesdays, Jenkins, Emily, \$17.00, Frances Foster Books, Grades PreK-2

A child describes every event that occurs on a Wednesday, from waking up while it is still dark out and deciding it is not a kissing day, through a half-day of school, to snuggling into bed at night. The mixed-media illustrations give readers a real feel for the youngster's Brooklyn neighborhood.

When Fish Got Feet, Sharks Got Teeth, and Bugs Began to Swarm: a Cartoon Prehistory of Life Long Before Dinosaurs, Bonner, Hannah, \$17.00, National Geographic, Grades 3-6

Provides information on the prehistory of animal and plant life before the time of dinosaurs, including fun facts, descriptive illustrations, humorous cartoons, a glossary, a pronunciation guide, and a time line.

Notables 2007

Zen and the Art of Faking It, Sonnenblick, Jordan, \$17.00, Scholastic, Grades 5-8

When thirteen-year-old San Lee moves to a new town and school for the umpteenth time, he is looking for a way to stand out when his knowledge of Zen Buddhism, gained in his previous school, provides the answer, and the need to quickly become a convincing Zen master. By allowing the lies to pile up, this faux Zen master becomes like the one person he doesn't want to be. Hilarious and heart-wrenching.