

Capitol Choices 2004



Noteworthy Books for Children Published During 2003

www.capitolchoices.org

Welcome to Capitol Choices

With great anticipation we present the 2004 edition, featuring books published in 2003. Please note that we have not skipped an edition, but are now conforming to the standard of dating the list with the year that it is printed rather than the year the books were published. This practice is common among many other lists (including those produced by the American Library Association), and we hope that our change will end the confusion that many of you encountered when searching for the “newest” Capitol Choices list.

Our members spend many hours reading, listening to, and discussing hundreds of books and audiobooks for children and young adults. This list represents those books that we feel are “must haves” in the lives of young people.

Capitol Choices began with just 10 members in 1996 as an outgrowth of the Library of Congress Committee on Recommended Books for Children. Our group now involves 60 active and enthusiastic members, as well as many others who use the meetings and online discussions as a method of keeping up with the best in literature for young people. Among us are school and public librarians, teachers, university professors, booksellers, magazine and newspaper editors and reviewers, and children’s and young adult literature specialists from Delaware to Virginia.

Our Committee members are available to present workshops tailored to a variety of audiences and interests, offering both experienced professionals and involved parents the opportunity to further their knowledge of books and audiobooks for young people. Please visit our website at www.capitolchoices.org to contact us for more information and see our lists from previous years.

—Sharon Grover, Arlington County (VA) Department of Libraries
Caroline S. Parr, Central Rappahannock (VA) Regional Library, Editors

Capitol Choices 2004 Editorial Board

Margaret Brown, Arlington County (VA) Department of Libraries
Elizabeth Guldseth, Children’s Literature Specialist, Arlington (VA)
Susan Hepler, Children’s Literature Specialist, Alexandria (VA)
Kristi Elle Jemtegaard, Arlington County (VA) Department of Libraries
Joan Kindig, University of Virginia
Kathie Meizner, Montgomery County (MD) Public Library
Jennifer Ralston, Harford County (MD) Public Library
Sharon Salluzzo, Children’s Literature Specialist, Potomac (MD)
Maria Salvadore, Children’s Literature Specialist, Washington, D.C.
Jewell Stoddard, Politics and Prose Bookstore (Washington, D.C.)

Capitol Choices 2004 Reading Group Facilitators

Ruth Anne Champion, Enoch Pratt Free Library (Baltimore, MD)
Edie Ching, St. Albans School (Washington, D.C.)
Maria Gentle, Arlington County (VA) Department of Libraries
Joan Kindig, University of Virginia
Jody Sharp, Baltimore County (MD) Public Library

Up to Seven

Bryan, Ashley

BEAUTIFUL BLACKBIRD

Atheneum; ISBN: 0689847319; \$16.95

Boldly colored collages and a lilting text combine to tell a Zambian tale about how the bright birds of Africa became even more beautiful. Listeners will want to chime in on every rhythmic phrase.

Cazet, Denys

ELVIS THE ROOSTER

ALMOST GOES TO HEAVEN

HarperCollins; ISBN: 0060005009; \$15.99

A treat for beginning readers, this story of a rooster who loses confidence is sheer fun. When the sun rises even though Elvis has swallowed a bug and failed to crow, his friends rally to support him.

Chodos-Irvine, Margaret

ELLA SARAH GETS DRESSED

Harcourt; ISBN: 0152164138; \$16.00

A little girl refuses her family's suggestions and wears what she chooses—polka-dot pants, striped socks, yellow shoes, red hat. Collage-like prints in intense colors capture perfectly the attitude of a child who knows her own mind.

Cooke, Trish

Illustrated by Paul Howard

FULL, FULL, FULL OF LOVE

Candlewick; ISBN: 0763618519; \$15.99

Grannie's house is full of family, full of good food, full of kisses, and full of love. Expressive illustrations capture the closeness of an extended African American family as it gathers together for Sunday dinner.

Dunrea, Olivier

OLLIE

Houghton Mifflin; ISBN: 0618339280; \$9.95

OLLIE THE STOMPER

Houghton Mifflin; ISBN: 0618339302; \$9.95

There's a new goose on the block to join Dunrea's delightful feathered duo Gossie and Gertie. Ollie, at first reluctant to leave his shell, must have boots to stomp in just like his new friends. Simple watercolor and ink drawings and repetitive text are just right for toddlers and beginning readers.

Elya, Susan Middleton

Illustrated by G. Brian Karas

OH NO, GOTTA GO!

Putnam; ISBN: 0399234934; \$14.99

Useful Spanish words and phrases dot this rollicking, rhymed story of a little girl on a family car ride who needs to find a bathroom, now, *en este momento!* Mixed-media illustrations expand the humor of this universal, and all too familiar, problem.

Fleming, Denise

BUSTER

Henry Holt; ISBN: 0805062793; \$15.95

Buster is a happy dog, with everything he desires, until Brown Shoes brings home *the big box*. His worst nightmare is realized, as the box does not contain tasty treats, but a cat named Betty. Vibrant artwork distinguishes this heartwarming tale of newly discovered friendship.

Frazee, Marla

ROLLER COASTER

Harcourt; ISBN: 0152045546; \$16.00

Zoom! Dip! Dive! Wheeeeeee! Hold your hat and take a roller coaster ride without ever leaving the ground.

Gay, Marie-Louise

GOOD NIGHT SAM

Groundwood; ISBN: 088899530X; \$14.95

Sam can't sleep because his dog, Fred, is missing. With his sister Stella's help, he searches the sleeping house, not realizing that Fred is everywhere they look, just hiding. Swirling watercolor illustrations accompany this humorous story of a typical bedtime problem.

Goodman, Susan E.

Photographs by Dorothy Handelman

NATURE DID IT FIRST!

Millbrook; ISBN: 0761324135; \$21.90

A stunning concept book pairs photographs of children in camouflage dress, with umbrellas, or in skating "armor," and shows how this mirrors nature: leopard spots, a termite nest, and armadillo skin. Guaranteed to provide "eureka" moments for young nature observers.

Guest, Elissa Haden

Illustrated by Christine Davenier

IRIS AND WALTER: THE SCHOOL PLAY

Harcourt; ISBN: 0152164812; \$15.00

Beginning readers will enjoy the excitement of getting ready for a school play and the despair when Iris, the cricket, gets sick the day of the performance. Wispy watercolors add the perfect touch to this gentle story.

Henkes, Kevin

JULIUS'S CANDY CORN

Greenwillow; ISBN: 0060537892; \$6.99

WEMBERLY'S ICE-CREAM STAR

Greenwillow; ISBN: 0060504056; \$6.99

Clever thinking helps both a patient, worried Wemberly on a hot summer day and a not-so-patient Julius at Halloween resolve their sweet-tooth dilemmas in these two child-centered board books with engaging and expressive characters and well-paced texts. "Delicious!"

James, Simon

LITTLE ONE STEP

Candlewick; ISBN: 076362070X; \$15.99

The smallest of three ducklings overcomes wobbly legs and wanting his mama when his siblings teach him One Step, which he does until a happy reunion with their mother.

Jenkins, Martin

Illustrated by Ivan Bates

GRANDMA ELEPHANT'S IN CHARGE

Candlewick; ISBN: 0763620742; \$15.99

Big, friendly drawings show the herd's daily activities in a delightful combination of story and easy science. Readers will relate to the family life of these animals—where grandmothers make the rules—and find enough facts for a simple report.

Jones, Ursula

Illustrated by Russell Ayto

THE WITCH'S CHILDREN

Henry Holt; ISBN: 0805072055; \$16.95

The witch's children wreak havoc when the Eldest One turns a little girl into a frog, and a host of high jinks ensues. Ayto's wacky drawings, especially of the Little One shouting her one not-so-magic word, give these shenanigans a wickedly funny twist.

Krebs, Laurie

Illustrated by Julia Cairns

WE ALL WENT ON SAFARI: A COUNTING JOURNEY THROUGH TANZANIA

Barefoot Books; ISBN: 1841484784; \$15.99

Cairns's sun-drenched landscapes punctuated by the rich red clothing and deep brown skin of the Maasai people are filled with the animals of Tanzania. The rhyming text counts from 1 to 10 in English and Swahili.

Lee, Ho Baek

WHILE WE WERE OUT

Kane/Miller; ISBN: 1929132441; \$15.95

A satisfying, clever, and beguiling tale from South Korea chronicles the adventures of a pet rabbit who explores the house while the family is away. Readers will giggle at the end, as the rabbit's antics are detected from a trail of "evidence" dropped behind!

Long, Melinda

Illustrated by David Shannon

HOW I BECAME A PIRATE

Harcourt; ISBN: 0152018484; \$16.00

While his parents are busy, Jeremy has a swashbuckling adventure with pirate Braid Beard and his band of slovenly buccaneers, until he realizes that he misses home and returns in time for soccer practice.

McMullan, Kate and Jim

I'M MIGHTY!

HarperCollins; ISBN: 0060092904; \$15.99

An exuberant, boastful tugboat epitomizes the little guy who thinks big. The bold typeface, strong use of patterns and symmetry, and lively language make this a perfect book for story time or sharing with young machine-lovers.

Murphy, Mary

I KISSED THE BABY!

Candlewick; ISBN: 0763621226; \$12.99

A spirited text accompanies big, bright, simple figures of several delighted animals and a proud mother duck in this picture book for the very youngest.

Rathmann, Peggy

THE DAY THE BABIES CRAWLED AWAY

Putnam; ISBN: 039923196X; \$16.99

In this fanciful, rhymed story a mother reminds her son about the day he heroically rescued the babies who crawled away. Oversized pictures with silhouettes set against glorious backgrounds provide repeating motifs for young readers to discover.

Sayre, April Pulley and Jeff

Illustrated by Randy Cecil

ONE IS A SNAIL TEN IS A CRAB:

A COUNTING BY FEET BOOK

Candlewick; ISBN: 0763614068; \$15.99

Counting from 1 to 10—and even higher—becomes a game when it's done with combinations of feet of real, but humorously depicted, critters on a bright and colorful beach.

Seeger, Laura Vaccaro

THE HIDDEN ALPHABET

Roaring Brook; ISBN: 0761319417; \$17.95

This graphically engaging and elegantly designed lift-the-flap alphabet book provides an interactive game for young children. Die-cut pages that beckon to be opened entice readers to discover the hidden letters beneath. Sturdy stock pages and an easy-to-hold size are perfect for small hands.

Shannon, George

Illustrated by Laura Dronzek

TIPPY-TOE CHICK, GO!

Greenwillow; ISBN: 0060298235; \$15.99

Every day the chickens go to the garden for their favorite treat, but one terrible morning a big dog blocks their way. Shannon's language and pacing supply the necessary tension, while Dronzek's droll facial expressions add to the humor.

Stanley, Diane

GOLDIE AND THE THREE BEARS

HarperCollins; ISBN: 0060000082; \$15.99

With visual clues and a text that echoes the old nursery tale, readers will delight when this modern, curly-haired, blonde little girl who "knew exactly what she liked" finds a Baby Bear friend who is "just right!"

Swift, Fran

Illustrated by Carol Thompson

OLD BLUE BUGGY

Dutton; ISBN: 0525457666; \$15.99

Old blue buggy is Henry's chariot from the start, but it outgrows its usefulness as Henry begins to toddle. What to do with the beloved buggy now? A rhythmic, singsong text and warm palette adorn this gentle story of moving on.

Willems, Mo

DON'T LET THE PIGEON DRIVE THE BUS!

Hyperion; ISBN: 078681988X; \$12.99

Young readers will delight in saying "no" to the persistent, ambitious pigeon in this simple, funny picture book as he cajoles, whines, wheedles and negotiates—unsuccessfully—to drive a big bus.

Yolen, Jane

Illustrated by Mark Teague

HOW DO DINOSAURS GET WELL SOON?

Blue Sky; ISBN: 0439241006; \$15.95

Laughter is perhaps the best medicine after all in this rip-roaring romp in humorous rhyme with dinosaurs that fill the pages as they illustrate how NOT to behave, before they demonstrate the best way back to health.

Seven to Ten

Chandra, Deborah and Madeleine Comora
Illustrated by Brock Cole

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S TEETH

Farrar, Straus & Giroux; ISBN: 0374325340;
\$16.00

The first president started losing his teeth at age 24 and ended with a set of false choppers made of hippo tusks. Sprightly verse and witty illustrations follow his tooth troubles through war and peace, complete with a timeline and quotes from primary sources.

Christelow, Eileen

VOTE!

Clarion; ISBN: 0618247548; \$16.00

Using a city mayoral race, this picture book explains voting, campaigning, voter registration, recounts, and speechifying. Lively cartoon illustrations and snappy comments from the family pets contribute to the useful information.

Davies, Nicola

Illustrated by James Croft

SURPRISING SHARKS

Candlewick; ISBN: 0763621854; \$15.99

Did you know humans kill 100 million sharks each year, while sharks kill only six humans? Jaunty, fact-filled writing briefly introduces and describes species such as wobbegong, hammerhead, dogfish, and great white. Big print and bright pictures splash across every page.

Dowell, Frances O'Roark

WHERE I'D LIKE TO BE

Atheneum; ISBN: 0689844204; \$15.95

Sixth-grader Maddie hopes for a foster home but is resigned to working on her scrapbook of houses in a children's home in Tennessee. Then the charismatic but unreliable Murphy arrives and spurs Maddie to take some risks.

Ellis, Sarah

Illustrated by Bruno St-Aubin

THE SEVERAL LIVES OF ORPHAN JACK

Groundwood; ISBN: 0888995296; \$14.95

Otherjack—there was already a Jack at the orphanage—makes a break for freedom and experiences the dangers of the open road. The author, like the quick-witted Otherjack, is in

love with words in this short, entertaining spoof of Victorian-era adventure stories.

Fenner, Carol

Illustrated by Amanda Harvey

SNOWED IN WITH GRANDMOTHER SILK

Dial; ISBN: 0803728573; \$14.99

Ruddy's youngish but very staid grandmother rises to the occasion when an unexpected snowstorm strands them without power for a few days in this tender, appealing, easy chapter book.

Fleming, Candace

Illustrated by Stacey Dressen-McQueen

BOXES FOR KATJE

Melanie Kroupa; ISBN: 0374309221; \$16.00

Boxes within and as shapes for the pictures emphasize the importance of gifts in an inspiring story of how one American girl's small act of sending socks and soap to a Dutch girl after World War II begets generous offerings from townspeople in both places.

Florian, Douglas

BOW WOW MEOW MEOW

Harcourt; ISBN: 0152163956; \$17.00

Puns, inventive wordplay, humor, and acute observations in poetry and free verse convey the essence of cats and dogs, while loosely painted illustrations capture their toothiness, breed idiosyncrasies, and postures.

Gaiman, Neil

Illustrated by Dave McKean

THE WOLVES IN THE WALLS

HarperCollins; ISBN: 038097827X; \$16.99

A dark, creepy, fantastical picture-book adventure for older readers is brought vividly to life by surreal and stylized photographic and computer-manipulated illustrations. Rich language, wordplay, and images combine to create a sophisticated package, not for the faint-at-heart.

Gerstein, Mordicai

THE MAN WHO WALKED BETWEEN THE TOWERS

Roaring Brook; ISBN: 0761317910; \$17.95

Philippe Petit could not resist the challenge of

the nearly completed World Trade Center towers. After throwing a tightrope between them, he joyfully played high in the air above New York City. Gerstein's visceral use of perspective brings the reader along on this nostalgic adventure.

Hamilton, Virginia

Illustrated by James E. Ransome

BRUH RABBIT AND THE TAR BABY GIRL

Blue Sky; ISBN: 059047376X; \$16.95

In a rich, lyrical retelling perfect for reading aloud, Bruh Rabbit nearly gets his comeuppance from Bruh Wolf. Bright, fresh watercolors put the reader right into the story.

Jenkins, Steve and Robin Page

WHAT DO YOU DO WITH A TAIL LIKE THIS?

Houghton Mifflin; ISBN: 0618256288; \$15.00

Remarkable cut-paper collages in an eye-catching assortment of colors and textures will arouse the budding scientist as the reader is asked to identify animals and why each has its distinctively shaped nose, ears, tail, eyes, feet, or mouth.

Krull, Kathleen

Illustrated by Yuyi Morales

HARVESTING HOPE: THE STORY OF CESAR CHAVEZ

Harcourt; ISBN: 0152014373; \$17.00

Cesar Chavez, champion of migrant workers, refused to have his life controlled by others. Krull details how powerlessness propelled Chavez into his historic role. Morales's palette conjures up the earth and fields where the story of this dedicated man unfolds.

Kushner, Tony

Illustrated by Maurice Sendak

BRUNDIBAR

Michael Di Capua; ISBN: 0786809043; \$19.95

Two children trying to earn money for milk for their sick mother are thwarted by the wicked organ-grinder Brundibar. A story about the power of hope and community, based on a 1938 Czech opera, with allusions to Hitler and the Holocaust in both the powerful text and compelling illustrations.

Leedy, Loreen

Illustrated by Pat Street

THERE'S A FROG IN MY THROAT! 440 ANIMAL SAYINGS A LITTLE BIRD TOLD ME

Holiday House; ISBN: 0823417743; \$16.95

Let's talk turkey. Word lovers will be in hog heaven after reading this witty and well-organized compilation of animal sayings, idioms, proverbs, and expressions. The humorous illustrations are the cat's pajamas. Holy cow! Hot dog! What fun!

Levine, Karen

HANA'S SUITCASE: A TRUE STORY

Albert Whitman; ISBN: 0807531480; \$15.95

The director of a Japanese Holocaust education center sets out to learn the story of the Jewish owner of a suitcase and uncovers both a moving tale and a survivor. Photographs underline the stark comparisons of Hana's life before and during the war.

McDermott, Gerald

CREATION

Dutton; ISBN: 0525469052; \$16.99

The story of the creation of the world and its creatures told in a reassuring voice and portrayed with distinctive, highly textured illustrations and dramatic use of color and light.

Martin, Jacqueline Briggs

Illustrated by David A. Johnson

ON SAND ISLAND

Houghton Mifflin; ISBN: 061823151X; \$16.00

Poetic text and evocative watercolor-wash illustrations present a boy who builds his own boat on a Lake Superior island in the early 1900s. Based on a real place and character, the story communicates the universal satisfaction and delight of making something both lasting and useful.

Melmed, Laura Krauss

Illustrated by Frané Lessac

CAPITAL! WASHINGTON D.C. FROM A TO Z

HarperCollins; ISBN: 0688175619; \$15.99

An alphabet book of simple verse captures the sights in Washington, while colorful, detailed illustrations and informational sidebars add further appeal for both locals and visitors.

Morales, Yuyi

JUST A MINUTE: A TRICKSTER TALE AND COUNTING BOOK

Chronicle; ISBN: 0811837580; \$15.95

The skeleton Señor Calavera arrives to take Grandma Beetle away, but she tricks him into sparing her for many more birthdays. Lively paintings make use of Mexican motifs while encouraging bilingual counting of birthday provisions, piñatas, and people.

O'Connor, Barbara

FAME AND GLORY IN FREEDOM, GEORGIA

Frances Foster; ISBN: 0374322589; \$16.00

Sixth-grader Bird befriends another outcast, Harlem Tate, and, hoping for celebrity and a trip to Disney World, convinces him to be her spelling-bee partner in this warm friendship story.

Recorvits, Helen

Illustrated by Gabi Swiatkowska

MY NAME IS YOON

Frances Foster; ISBN: 0374351147; \$16.00

Instead of her own name in English letters, Yoon (Shining Wisdom) writes “cat,” “bird,” “cupcake.” Dreamlike, delicate illustrations imagine her as each, until in time, and with the support of a kind teacher, she is Yoon at last.

Sabuda, Robert

ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND: A POP-UP ADAPTATION OF LEWIS CARROLL'S ORIGINAL TALE

Little Simon; ISBN: 0689847432; \$24.95

The boundaries of the pop-up book are once again expanded in this masterful blend of whimsy and engineering. Perhaps Alice's greatest adventure of all, this pop-up brings her world to life through amazing 3-D representations. Pure magic!

Schanzer, Rosalyn

HOW BEN FRANKLIN STOLE THE LIGHTNING

HarperCollins; ISBN: 0688169937; \$16.99

Lively text and light-hearted illustrations recount a number of Benjamin Franklin's inventive and creative accomplishments—including the remarkable man's experiments with electricity.

Warhola, James

UNCLE ANDY'S

Putnam; ISBN: 0399238697; \$16.99

Andy Warhol's nephew affectionately recalls, in words and watercolor paintings, a 1962 family visit to his uncle's house in New York, giving a glimpse of the famous pop artist's life—including his art and his 25 cats named Sam—through the eyes of a young boy.

Ten to Fourteen

Cameron, Ann

COLIBRI

Frances Foster; ISBN: 0374315191; \$17.00

Contemporary Guatemala is the vivid backdrop for 12-year-old Rosa's journey to regain her stolen past, lost family, and identity as Colibrí, “hummingbird” in Spanish.

Codell, Esmé Raji

SAHARA SPECIAL

Hyperion; ISBN: 0786807938; \$15.99

Discarded letters to her absent father brand Sahara as a problem in school. Repeating fifth grade, Sahara encounters Miss Pointy, an unorthodox teacher, who sees the potential Sahara holds. By the end of this delightful story, Sahara knows, too.

Collins, Suzanne

GREGOR THE OVERLANDER

Scholastic; ISBN: 0439435366; \$16.95

Eleven-year-old Gregor's summer takes an unexpected, adventurous turn when he and his little sister fall through the floor of the laundry room into Underland, a subterranean world inhabited by bizarre creatures. Suspense and fantasy combine in this satisfying look at expectations and responsibilities.

Cooper, Ilene

JACK: THE EARLY YEARS OF JOHN F. KENNEDY

Dutton; ISBN: 0525469230; \$22.99

Growing up in the ever-expanding Kennedy family meant facing prejudice and privilege,

challenges made even more difficult for JFK because of his ill health. An insightful biography that offers new perspective on the president.

Crowe, Chris

GETTING AWAY WITH MURDER: THE TRUE STORY OF THE EMMETT TILL CASE

Phyllis Fogelman; ISBN: 0803728042; \$18.99

The infamous murder of a black boy and the Jim Crow racism of the 1950s seem as real as today's headlines in this vivid yet balanced report of an early event in the civil rights era.

DiCamillo, Kate

Illustrated by Timothy Basil Ering

THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX: BEING THE STORY OF A MOUSE, A PRINCESS, SOME SOUP, AND A SPOOL OF THREAD

Candlewick; ISBN: 0763617229; \$17.99

Despereaux Tilling is not like other mice. He has enormous ears and exhibits the most "unmouse-like" behavior—he likes to read books and falls in love with a human princess. A witty, omniscient narrator treats readers to a fairytale filled with drama, suspense, and ultimate forgiveness.

DuPrau, Jeanne

THE CITY OF EMBER

Random House; ISBN: 0375822739; \$15.95

In a post-apocalypse city on the verge of collapse, 12-year-olds Lina and Doon join forces to flee to an unknown world above ground. A fast-paced story with appeal for younger fantasy readers.

Freedman, Russell

IN DEFENSE OF LIBERTY: THE STORY OF AMERICA'S BILL OF RIGHTS

Holiday House; ISBN: 0823415856; \$24.95

Can students be required to salute the flag? Is random drug testing fair? Freedman's history of the first ten amendments to the Constitution shows young readers how timely and important these issues are as we face the post-September 11 world.

Funke, Cornelia

INKHEART

Chicken House; ISBN: 0439531640; \$19.95

A mellifluous reading brings book characters to life, and a masterful plan is required to foil their evil ambitions. A fast-paced, mysterious

adventure for those who relish the look, feel, smell, and words of a delightfully satisfying book.

Greenberg, Jan

ROMARE BEARDEN: COLLAGE OF MEMORIES

Harry N. Abrams; ISBN: 0810945894; \$17.95

Spectacular use of color, design, concise text, and collages thoughtfully chosen from the artist's own work complete a pictorial biography that is both accessible and attractive, capturing the essence of the man and serving as a retrospective of his art.

Hampton, Wilborn

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001: ATTACK ON NEW YORK CITY

Candlewick; ISBN: 0763619493; \$17.99

Using interviews with survivors, the author records harrowing and heart-breaking personal stories in an easy-to-read journalistic style that does not sensationalize. Poignant narratives rivet the reader's attention and provide a lasting and respectful memory of a day in history.

Hansen, Joyce and Gary McGowan

FREEDOM ROADS: SEARCHING FOR THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

Cricket; ISBN: 0812626737; \$18.95

In a book that explains how history is discovered, readers learn how longstanding legends about the Underground Railroad are being both supported and debunked by historians and archaeologists, based on evidence such as oral histories, census records, and site excavations.

Henkes, Kevin

OLIVE'S OCEAN

Greenwillow; ISBN: 0060535431; \$15.99

The death of Olive, a girl 12-year-old Martha barely knew, has an impact on the week she and her family spend with Martha's grandmother in New England—a week of stunning realizations, first experiences, and touching growth.

Hesse, Karen

ALEUTIAN SPARROW

Margaret K. McElderry; ISBN: 0689861893; \$16.95

Seen through the eyes of teenaged Vera, the tragic and heartbreaking forced relocation of

the residents of the Aleutian Islands during World War II is related in clear, resonant free verse and delicate imagery, dramatically bringing to life a little-known period of American history.

Holt, Kimberly Willis

KEEPER OF THE NIGHT

Henry Holt; ISBN: 0805063617; \$16.95

Colorful characters and Guam's rich culture provide an unusual backdrop for a moving story as Isabel tries to hold her family together after her mother's suicide. Lean, beautiful language graces the short chapters of only a paragraph or a page.

Kraft, Betsy Harvey

THEODORE ROOSEVELT: CHAMPION OF THE AMERICAN SPIRIT

Clarion; ISBN: 0618142649; \$19.00

Although a sickly child, Roosevelt was determined to achieve. Kraft brings Roosevelt off the page as the story of his indomitable spirit unfolds. His work for the poor, land conservation, and distrust of big business make him a man for the ages.

Krull, Kathleen

Illustrated by Stephen Alcorn

THE BOOK OF ROCK STARS: 24 MUSICAL ICONS THAT SHINE THROUGH HISTORY

Hyperion; ISBN: 0786819502; \$16.99

From the 1950s to the present, rock stars representing genres from reggae and folk to hard rock are featured in this anthology. Alcorn's striking polychrome relief block prints highlight the brief biographical sketches. A noteworthy introduction to the artists behind the music.

Lauber, Patricia

WHO CAME FIRST? NEW CLUES TO PREHISTORIC AMERICANS

National Geographic; ISBN: 0792282280; \$18.95

Lauber's ambitious look at new theories about how the first settlers arrived in America reads like a mystery, as she emphasizes the unfolding nature of hypotheses about the past and invites young readers to participate in the making of science.

Lekuton, Joseph Lemasolai with Herman Viola

FACING THE LION: GROWING UP MAASAI ON THE AFRICAN SAVANNA

National Geographic; ISBN: 0792251253; \$15.95

This autobiography celebrates Lekuton's life in the Maasai culture of Kenya into which he was born and describes his adjustment as a student and now teacher in the United States. On the way, he encounters lions and airplanes, village elders and national leaders.

Macaulay, David

MOSQUE

Houghton Mifflin; ISBN: 0618240349; \$18.00

In this imagined story, a naval commander in the late 16th century orders the building of a mosque. From the ground up, the construction is documented by informative text and precise, carefully researched illustrations that are based on well-known Turkish mosques.

Murphy, Jim

AN AMERICAN PLAGUE: THE TRUE AND TERRIFYING STORY OF THE YELLOW FEVER EPIDEMIC OF 1793

Clarion; ISBN: 0395776082; \$17.00

A well-researched, compelling account of the unfolding of the staggering yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia in 1793, amidst the politics, medicine, and fears of the day. Readers will marvel at the remedies and cures that offered no relief.

Murray, Martine

THE SLIGHTLY TRUE STORY OF CEDAR B. HARTLEY (WHO PLANNED TO LIVE AN UNUSUAL LIFE)

Arthur A. Levine; ISBN: 043948622X; \$15.95

Fresh ideas bubble out of an irrepressible 12-year-old as she plans her life, misses her father and older brother, and puts on a circus show with friends for all the crazy neighbors. An unforgettable and engaging new voice.

Myers, Walter Dean

Illustrated by Christopher Myers

BLUES JOURNEY

Holiday House; ISBN: 0823416135; \$18.95

A picture-book homage to the blues in poetry and art that delivers powerful information and

images surrounding the development of this uniquely American musical genre. Compelling illustrations—created with blue ink, white paint, and brown paper bags—a timeline, and a blues glossary complete the package.

Rees, Douglas

VAMPIRE HIGH

Delacorte; ISBN: 0385731175; \$15.95

Cody's move from California to New Sodom, Massachusetts, is a dead loss, until he begins to understand why he's an outsider among the other students at his new school, the well-endowed, aptly named Vlad Dracul High.

Reeve, Philip

MORTAL ENGINES

EOS; ISBN: 0060082070; \$16.99

As this post-apocalypse science fiction begins, "the city of London was chasing a small mining town across the dried-out bed of the old North Sea." Cliffhanger chapter endings and heart-stopping action keep Tom and Hester's story moving at breakneck speed.

Said, SF

Illustrated by Dave McKean

VARJAK PAW

David Fickling; ISBN: 0385750196; \$16.95

Sophisticated drawings of sleek cats, city scenes, and an angry dog meld with the action, danger, and humor of this cat hero's journey to save his family.

Sís, Peter

THE TREE OF LIFE: A BOOK DEPICTING THE LIFE OF CHARLES DARWIN

Frances Foster; ISBN: 0374456283; \$18.00

Sís paints intricately detailed watercolor illustrations and uses varied type to take the reader on a personal adventure to explore the life and ideas of the great naturalist. Every page is a feast for the eye and mind, filled with maps, diagrams, and information.

Osa, Nancy

CUBA 15

Delacorte; ISBN: 0385730217; \$15.95

Violet Paz, daughter of a Cuban father and a Polish mother, turns 15 and resists her family's plans for her *quinceañero*, a traditional Cuban celebration of womanhood. She finally relents to please her Abuela and finds that there is much to learn and appreciate about her family and her heritage.

Yolen, Jane

SWORD OF THE RIGHTFUL KING: A NOVEL OF KING ARTHUR

Harcourt; ISBN: 0152025278; \$17.00

With engaging characters and an evocative landscape, this tale of King Arthur—an old story, but a good one—is fresh and alive with mystery, court intrigue, and the quest for power and friendship.

Fourteen and Up

Brooks, Kevin

LUCAS: A STORY OF LOVE AND HATE

Chicken House; ISBN: 0439456983; \$16.95

When Lucas, a stranger on the island, is accused of a crime he did not commit, 15-year-old Caitlin attempts to save him from an out-of-control mob. Vivid, heart-thumping, gruesome scenes dramatize a thought-provoking premise.

Brooks, Martha

TRUE CONFESSIONS OF A HEARTLESS GIRL

Melanie Kroupa; ISBN: 0374378061; \$16.00

Testy, troubled 17-year-old Noreen shows up in the small prairie town of Pembina Lake and

upsets a precarious calm. Her continuing blunders and the unconditional support of the residents of that tiny backwater give her the impetus she needs to get on with her life.

Donnelly, Jennifer

A NORTHERN LIGHT

Harcourt; ISBN: 0152167056; \$17.00

The skillful interweaving of the stories of two young women—a mysterious drowning victim and an aspiring writer struggling with conflicting desires for personal happiness and a place in the world—presents a vivid, verbal portrait of a woman's lot in 1906.

Fleming, Candace

BEN FRANKLIN'S ALMANAC: BEING A TRUE ACCOUNT OF THE GOOD GENTLEMAN'S LIFE

Atheneum; ISBN: 0689835493; \$19.95

Designed to resemble *Poor Richard's Almanac*, this unusual biography gathers related incidents and anecdotes together in chapters on boyhood, family, publishing, community service, science, revolution, diplomacy, and memories. Profusely illustrated, it invites the reader to dip in anywhere.

Frost, Helen

KEESHA'S HOUSE

Frances Foster; ISBN: 0374340641; \$16.00

In this novel told in verse, troubled teens find their way to Keesha's house when they can't live at home. Despite teen pregnancy, difficult foster homes, and family conflicts, Keesha and her friends are able to hold onto the poetry in their lives.

Going, K. L.

FAT KID RULES THE WORLD

Putnam; ISBN: 0399239901; \$17.99

Troy Billings, a 296-pound teenaged social outcast is contemplating suicide, until he connects with Curt, a cool rock guitarist who may be crazy or homeless but is able to use music to help Troy find something to love about himself.

Hautman, Pete

SWEETBLOOD: A VAMPIRE NOVEL

Simon & Schuster; ISBN: 0689850484; \$16.95

Sixteen-year-old Lucy, a diabetic girl who theorizes that the original vampires were simply untreated diabetics, uses a self-deprecating, original voice to tell how she flirts with a Goth lifestyle, longs to meet a real vampire, and ignores her disease, with startling results.

Johnson, Angela

THE FIRST PART LAST

Simon & Schuster; ISBN: 0689849222; \$15.95

In the sparest of prose, alternating between past and present, 16-year-old Bobby shares the life-altering experience that was the birth of his daughter. A powerful novel about teen pregnancy and parenthood from a male perspective.

Koja, Kathe

BUDDHA BOY

Frances Foster; ISBN: 0374309981; \$16.00

New-kid-in-school Jinsen is considered weird, with his strange clothes and his habit of begging at lunchtime. When Justin is forced to work with him on a class project, he develops a profound respect for Jinsen's artistic abilities and the difficult past he has overcome.

Krisher, Trudy

UNCOMMON FAITH

Holiday House; ISBN: 0823417913; \$17.95

A chorus of diverse voices recounts the struggle for equality of women and blacks in mid-19th century Millbrook, Massachusetts. At its center is a plucky, fearless redhead named Faith, whose outspokenness and courage spark the transformation of a town and its people.

Levithan, David

BOY MEETS BOY

Knopf; ISBN: 0375824006; \$15.95

A contemporary teen romance with a twist. Paul and Noah meet in a gay utopia where the star quarterback is also homecoming queen. An atypical tale about the confusion and angst of young love, told with ample humor and heart.

Mackler, Carolyn

THE EARTH, MY BUTT, AND OTHER BIG ROUND THINGS

Candlewick; ISBN: 0763619582; \$15.99

Fifteen-year-old Virginia Shreves, blond and overweight, wonders how she managed to be born into a family of dark-haired, thin superstars. When her "perfect" older brother gets into serious trouble, she begins to understand the price of keeping up appearances.

Nolan, Han

WHEN WE WERE SAINTS

Harcourt; ISBN: 0152163719; \$17.00

A grieving Archie is spellbound by the religious passion and charisma of Clare, who is convinced that they can become saints. Intense self-sacrifice and a harrowing pilgrimage to the Cloisters ultimately lead him to a realization of his own self-worth.

Peck, Richard

THE RIVER BETWEEN US

Dial; ISBN: 0803727356; \$16.99

Family stories and secrets are central to this moving tale of Civil War-era Illinois. Howard Hutchings tells of a visit to meet the mysterious elderly relatives who raised his father, and 15-year-old Tilly recounts the arrival of two strangers from New Orleans who change the course of all their lives.

Pratchett, Terry

THE WEE FREE MEN: A STORY OF DISCWORLD

HarperCollins; ISBN: 0060012366; \$16.99

The tiny, wild, blue Nac Mac Feegle help Tiffany rescue her little brother, kidnapped by the Queen of the Elves and spirited off to her dream world in this memorable and witty adventure.

Satrapi, Marjane

PERSEPOLIS: THE STORY OF A CHILDHOOD

Pantheon; ISBN: 0375422307; \$17.95

Satrapi remembers her own years as an outspoken, ingenious, and rebellious girl growing up in Iran during the Islamic Revolution in a graphic novel that is moving and humorous and offers a powerful view of recent history.

Wrede, Patricia C. and Caroline Stevermer

SORCERY & CECELIA OR THE ENCHANTED CHOCOLATE POT: BEING THE CORRESPONDENCE OF TWO YOUNG LADIES OF QUALITY REGARDING VARIOUS MAGICAL SCANDALS IN LONDON AND THE COUNTRY

Harcourt; ISBN: 0152046151; \$17.00

In an alternative, 19th-century England touched by magic and evil wizards, two cousins' beguiling correspondence provides a delicious romp full of dastardly schemes, magical misadventures, and romantic encounters. Fans of Jane Austen will love the girls' fanciful exploits!

Audiobooks Too Good to Miss

Anderson, M.T.

Narrated by David Aaron Baker

FEED

Listening Library;

ISBN (cassette): 0807216542; \$30.00;

ISBN (CD): 0807217735; \$40.00

Imagine a world where your computer is embedded in your brain and you are subjected to the chilling, twisted words of "the feed." Anderson's well-realized dystopian society becomes frighteningly real through Baker's excellent reading and the use of an ensemble cast as the feed. Strong language and mature themes make this an audiobook for older listeners.

Cooney, Caroline B.

Narrated by Christina Moore

GODDESS OF YESTERDAY

Recorded Books;

ISBN (cassette): 1402546696; \$54.00;

ISBN (CD): 1402566034; \$78.00

Anaxandra, taken hostage as a child, must reinvent herself as she is moved from kingdom

to kingdom. When she runs afoul of Helen of Troy her life changes dramatically, forcing her to decide who she really is. Moore's careful pacing and subtle inflection draw out both major and minor characters in this exceptional reworking of an ancient tale.

Creech, Sharon

Narrated by Donna Murphy

GRANNY TORRELLI MAKES SOUP

Harper Audio; ISBN (cassette): 0060564326; \$18.00

Recorded Books; ISBN (cassette):

1402564708; \$22.00 (library edition)

Granny Torrelli's recipes for *zuppa* are only the beginning of her wisdom as she helps 12-year-old Rosie negotiate her newly complicated friendship with Bailey, her longtime pal who is blind. Murphy gives Granny a heart as generous as her Italian accent, while Rosie is a peppery mix of friendship and furor. *Molto* charming!

DiCamillo, Kate

Narrated by Graeme Malcolm

THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX: BEING THE STORY OF A MOUSE, A PRINCESS, SOME SOUP, AND A SPOOL OF THREAD

Listening Library;

ISBN (cassette): 0807219487; \$30.00;

ISBN (CD): 080722006X; \$35.00

A story of misplaced yearnings, knowing where one fits into the pattern of life, longing, forgiveness, and the healing power of soup. Malcolm's dazzling performance animates not only the host of eccentric characters—both human and animal—with his comical accents and flawless pacing, but also enlarges the role of the clever, all-knowing narrator.

Donnelly, Jennifer

Narrated by Hope Davis

A NORTHERN LIGHT

Listening Library;

ISBN (cassette): 0807208965; \$40.00;

ISBN (CD): 0807217875; \$55.00

Through the eyes of 16-year-old Mattie, farm-girl-turned-waitress at a hotel in the Adirondacks, this tale—based on an actual event in 1906—unravels the terrible mystery surrounding a young woman's death. Davis skillfully recreates the rural locale and period and gives depth to the characters, including the hapless victim, heard only through the words of her increasingly frightened letters.

Fleischman, Paul

Narrated by multiple voices

SEEDFOLKS

Audio Bookshelf;

ISBN (cassette): 1883332893; \$18.95;

ISBN (CD): 1883332958; \$24.95

At the center of this novella are the voices of 13 characters—Vietnamese and Jewish, student and taxi driver, young and old—whose efforts turn a hunk of barren ground into a patchwork of plots and a divided city block into a community. The cast reads with such authenticity that each character is unique, recognizably different in age, ethnicity, background, and aspirations.

Freyman-Weyr, Garret

Narrated by Christy Carlson Romano

MY HEARTBEAT

Listening Library;

ISBN (cassette): 0807212431; \$30.00;

ISBN (CD): 0807215996; \$30.00

This delicate exploration of sexual identity is told through the voice of 14-year-old Ellen as she follows her older brother Link and his best friend James into the uncharted territory of adolescence. Romano's quick, light narration captures Ellen's earnest, introspective voice perfectly—a ceaseless stream of ideas, questions, witty observations, wry commentary, and bewilderment.

Funke, Cornelia

Narrated by Lynn Redgrave

INKHEART

Listening Library;

ISBN (cassette): 0807219517; \$55.00;

ISBN (CD): 0807220108; \$85.00

Meggie's father, a mender of books, has never read aloud to her, although their house is filled with books, and he tells her many stories. The extraordinary reason behind this odd fact is the backbone of a tale filled with melancholy, mystery, and mayhem, ably rendered in an elegant interpretation that draws the listener into the lives of remarkable characters.

Horvath, Polly

Narrated by Julie Dretzin

THE CANNING SEASON

Recorded Books;

ISBN (cassette): 1402558945; \$38.00

Dretzin brings to life Horvath's dark but uplifting story of a young girl abandoned by her mother to the care of two eccentric aunts. Although each of the characters has experienced tragedy and disappointment, listeners get a sense of the joy that unexpected turnings can bring to one's life.

Murphy, Jim

Narrated by Taylor Mali

BLIZZARD! THE STORM THAT CHANGED AMERICA

Audio Bookshelf;

ISBN (cassette): 1883332850; \$19.95;

ISBN (CD): 1883332915; \$26.95

Vivid details, personal narratives, and interesting facts recreate the “Great White Hurricane” of 1888. Narrator Mali preserves a careful balance between a dignified solemnity befitting the calamitous nature of the events and a you-are-there reportorial style that extracts every ounce of narrative tension from this chilling drama. Parents will find themselves as enthralled as their children with this outstanding production.

Nimmo, Jenny

Narrated by Simon Russell Beale

MIDNIGHT FOR CHARLIE BONE

Listening Library;

ISBN (cassette): 0807216631; \$36.00;

ISBN (CD): 1400086140; \$55.00

Devotees of Hogwarts will feel right at home with Charlie Bone and Bloor’s Academy. Beale’s rich Shakespearean voice breathes life into every character—the sinister Dr. Bloor and his son, Manfred, a creepier variant of his parent; wistful, neglected Benjamin, Charlie’s best friend; intrepid Olivia, who gleefully totters into danger on her high-heeled shoes; and Aunt Lucretia Yewbeam, whose tongue could blister paint.

Nix, Garth

Narrated by Tim Curry

ABHORSEN

Listening Library;

ISBN (cassette): 0807205605; \$46.00;

ISBN (CD): 1400086116; \$65.00

Curry continues his brilliant portrayal of Nix’s high fantasy world and his thoughtful exploration of sacrifice, friendship, and war in this explosive conclusion to the trilogy beginning with *Sabriel* and *Lirael*. As Lirael and Sameth race to save their world from the forces of evil, Curry’s skillful reading makes palpable the inherent tension of the story.

Rowling, J. K.

Narrated by Jim Dale

HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX

Listening Library;

ISBN (cassette): 0807220302; \$60.00;

ISBN (CD): 0807220310; \$90.00

Harry, Ron, Hermione and company return, and Jim Dale’s hundreds of voices still ring true in this fifth year at Hogwarts. Dale skillfully manages the angst of a 15-year-old who has little control over his life and keeps listeners firmly on track throughout the intricate plotting and surprise twists of Rowling’s latest adventure.

Stroud, Jonathan

Narrated by Simon Jones

THE AMULET OF SAMARKAND: THE BARTIMAEUS TRILOGY, BOOK ONE

Listening Library;

ISBN (cassette): 0807219541; \$50.00

Into a world ruled by magicians who manipulate events using strange, mystical creatures as servants and protectors comes Bartimaeus, a djinni, summoned to London by a 12-year-old apprentice. This unheard-of circumstance and the pandemonium that follows is told in riotously satirical fashion, with drawing perfection by Jones.

Woodson, Jacqueline

Narrated by JD Jackson

LOCOMOTION

Recorded Books;

ISBN (cassette): 1402539495; \$10.00;

ISBN (CD): 1402565828; \$22.00

Jackson reads with ease, warmth, and feeling and makes evident the accomplished poetry and well-paced plot of this short novel in free verse. Engaging and sympathetic foster-child Lonnie misses his parents and longs to be reunited with his little sister who has been adopted in this involving, emotional, and hopeful listening experience.

Capitol Choices 2004 Committee Members

- Lynda Adamson, Young Adult Literature Specialist,
Arlington (VA)
- Elizabeth Alberts, Norfolk (VA) Public Library
- Marianne Baker, James Madison University (VA)
- Frances Barnett, Alexandria (VA) Public Library
- Jean Barquin, St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School
(Washington, D.C.)
- Lena Gonzalez Berrios, Central Rappahannock (VA)
Regional Library
- Toni Bissessar, Arlington County (VA)
Department of Libraries
- Rhona Campbell, District of Columbia Public Library
- Shelley Chick-Gravel, Central Rappahannock (VA)
Regional Library
- Blair Christolon, Prince William County (VA)
Public Library
- Deborah Churchman, *Ranger Rick* Magazine
(Reston, VA)
- Sue Corbett, Miami Herald /Knight Ridder-Tribune
News Service
- Marilyn Courtot, *Children's Literature
Comprehensive Database*
- Kristen Dettleff, Arlington County (VA)
Department of Libraries
- Jane Dorfman, Montgomery County (MD)
Public Library
- Jane Drabkin, Prince William County (VA)
Public Library
- Liz Hannegan, Arlington County (VA) Public Schools
- Jennifer Hartshorn, District of Columbia Public Library
- Bridget Harvey, Central Rappahannock (VA)
Regional Library
- Elizabeth Hensley, Central Rappahannock (VA)
Regional Library
- Megan Hicks, *stories: (un)fold* (Fredericksburg, VA)
- Peggy Howell, Fairfax County (VA) Public Schools
- Myra Katz, Prince George's County (MD) Memorial
Library System
- April Stewart King, District of Columbia Public Library
- Kimberly Knight, Prince William County (VA)
Public Library
- Angelique Kopa, Harford County (MD) Public Library
- June Krell, District of Columbia Public Library
- Carolyn LaChance, Fairfax County (VA) Public Library
- Anne Lund, Arlington County (VA)
Department of Libraries
- Diane Marton, Arlington County (VA)
Department of Libraries
- Pat Muller, Library of Virginia
- Suzanne Munson, Arlington County (VA)
- Debra Nelson, Prince George's County (MD)
Memorial Library System
- Rebecca Purdy, Central Rappahannock (VA)
Regional Library
- Julie Ramsay, Mary Riley Stiles Public Library
(Falls Church, VA)
- Carrie Rankin, Montgomery County (MD)
Public Library
- Elizabeth Simmons, New Castle County (DE)
Department of Libraries
- Patricia Steelman, Library of Congress
- Deborah Taylor, Enoch Pratt Free Library
(Baltimore, MD)
- Jacki Vawter, Children's Literature Specialist,
Charlottesville (VA)
- Victoria Velsey, Georgetown Day School
(Washington, D.C.)
- Kim Vu, Arlington County (VA)
Department of Libraries
- Jamie Watson, Harford County (MD) Public Library
- Faith Williams, District of Columbia Public Library
- Mary Jane Wiseman, The Catholic University of
America (Washington, D.C.)

Major funding for the production and printing
of this booklet was provided by

Public Library Specialists



1847 Mercer Road
Lexington, KY 40511
800-888-4478
www.bwibooks.com