

# Children's Literature in the Classroom



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## LOS ANGELES' 100 BEST BOOKS: 1998

**F**or the fourth consecutive year, the Los Angeles Unified School District Library Services, in partnership with the Children's Literature and Reading Special Interest Group of the International Reading Association (IRA CL/R SIG), has published the **Los Angeles' 100 Best Books**.

The selections were made from 6,515 juvenile titles published in 1998 which are included on their **Focus on Books CD-ROM** software.

In writing the annotations, input was taken into consideration from hundreds of library media teachers, administrators, advisors, and other District staff who shared these new books with their students and provided their personal reactions to the books.

Beyond the general criteria used for book

◆ LA 100 best books

◆ Book reviews

evaluation in selecting their “priority one” books (those which belong in all libraries): that they correlate with state curriculum frameworks and further district curriculum goals and standards; reflect outstanding qualities including high literary merit, rich factual content, and aesthetic design; meet the informational and recreational reading needs of students; and reflect cultural, racial, and ethnic diversity, the staff also considered three additional criteria in selecting the **100 Best Books of 1998**:

- ◆ model of a balanced library collection
- ◆ strong reader appeal
- ◆ originality of concept, approach, or point of view

This collection includes a range of genres, reading, and interest levels that span PreK-12. The books are rated for reading and interest levels, using the codes **R** = Reading level, **I** = Interest level, **A** = Adult, **ELL** = English Language Learner.

### PICTURE BOOKS (12)

*(Fiction books dependent upon the interaction of text and numerous illustrations to convey meaning)*

Bunting, Eve. **So Far from the Sea**. Il. by Chris K. Soentpiet. Clarion, 1998. 30 pp. ISBN: 0395720958. **R**=Gr.5-6, **I**=Gr.K-4. *Japanese Americans. Fiction. Manzanar War Relocation. Asian Studies. World War II.* Moving story of a young Japanese American girl and her family who visit Grandfather’s grave to leave behind silk flowers and a special memento.

Karas, G. Brian. **The Windy Day**. Il. by author. Simon, 1998. Unpaged. ISBN: 0689814496. **R**=Gr.3-4, **I**=Gr.1-4. *Winds. Fiction. Ancient History. Fantasies. Change. Geography.* As the wind blows through Tidy Town, a boy breathes in the same air that has blown over the Great Wall, the Great Pyramids, polar bears, and distant volcanoes in this moving story into the realm of wonder.

Keller, Laurie. **The Scrambled States of America**. Il. by author. Holt, 1998. Unpaged. ISBN: 0805058028. **R**=Gr.5-6, **I**=Gr.3-5. *American Geography. Personification. Imaginative Characterizations. Humor.* Bored with their routine life in the Midwest, best friends Kansas and Nebraska throw a party which results in all the states changing geographical locations. Appendix gives each state’s nickname, capital, size, and population.

Lewin, Ted. **The Storytellers**. Il. by author. Lothrop, 1998. Unpaged. ISBN: 0688151795. **R**=Gr.3-4, **I**=Gr.K-5. *Grandfathers. Fiction. Morocco. Storytelling. Arabic Studies. Read Aloud.* Abdul com-

ments to Grandfather on the activities they see on their way to work at the market in Fez, Morocco, inviting readers to speculate on their occupation, which is eventually revealed to be storytelling.

London, Jonathan. **Phantom of the Prairie**. Il. by Barbara Bash. Sierra Club, 1998. Unpaged. ISBN: 0871563878. **R**=Gr.3-4, **I**=Gr.K-6. *Endangered Species. Fiction. Ferrets. Life Cycle. Prairie Ecosystem. Prairie Dogs. ELL Material.* The habits, interrelationships, and life cycle of a litter of endangered black-footed ferrets, especially Phantom who is the liveliest one, are fictionalized amid their prairie biome.

Meade, Holly. **John Willy and Freddy McGee**. Il. by author. Marshall Cavendish, 1998. Unpaged. ISBN: 0761450335. **R**=Gr.2-3, **I**=Gr.PreK-3. *Guinea Pigs. Fiction. Pets. Family Life. Animal Behaviors. Adventures. Read Aloud.* Based on a true incident, two guinea pigs escape their cage and have an adventure running in the tunnels of the family pool table.

Polacco, Patricia. **Thank You, Mr. Falker**. Il. by author. Philomel, 1998. Unpaged. ISBN: 0399231668. **R**=Gr.4-5, **I**=Gr.PreK-6. *Reading. Fiction. Teachers. Autobiographical Tale. Peer Rejection. Acceptance. Literacy. Making a Difference.* When Trisha, a Russian Jewish American girl, has trouble learning to read despite her grandparents’ support, her classmates torment her until her fifth-grade teacher intervenes.

Santiago, Chiori. **Home to Medicine Mountain**. Il. by Judith Lowry. Childrens Book Press, 1998. Unpaged. ISBN: 0892391553. **R**=Gr.4-5, **I**=Gr.3-8. *Indians of North America. California. Maidu Indians. Fiction. Private Schools. American History. Diversity.* Two young Native American boys are sent to live at a harsh government-run Indian boarding school in California during the 1930s. They embark on an adventurous journey on a freight train to get home to their family.

Shannon, David. **No, David!** Il. by author. Scholastic/Blue Sky, 1998. Unpaged. ISBN: 0590930028. **R**=Gr.K-1, **I**=Gr.PreK-3. *Behavior. Fiction. Caldecott Honor (1999). Parenting. Play. Mischief. Humor. Love. Read Aloud.* An exuberant young boy reaches for the cookie jar, tracks in mud, and makes a mess to the accompanying sounds of “No, David!” in this amusing rendition of the childhood experience.

Shulevitz, Uri. **Snow**. Il. by author. Farrar, 1998. Unpaged. ISBN: 0374370923. **R**=Gr.2-3, **I**=Gr.PreK-3. *City Life. Fiction. Snow. Caldecott Honor (1999).*

*Winter. Predictions. Fantasies. Read Aloud.* Adults dismiss the first few snowflakes as nothing, but by day's end, the boy and his dog are frolicking in an enchanted European city where everything magically has been turned from gray to white.

Wells, Rosemary. **Yoko.** Il. by author. Hyperion, 1998. Unpaged. ISBN: 0786823453. **R=Gr.3-4, I=Gr.PreK-3.** *Japanese Americans. Fiction. School Stories. Foods. Eating. Diversity. Acceptance. Read Aloud.* When Yoko, a young school cat, brings sushi for lunch, her classmates shun her and her food. Timothy's hunger overcomes his attitude and the two end up sharing.

Yolen, Jane. **Raising Yoder's Barn.** Little, 1998. Unpaged. ISBN: 0316968870 **R=Gr.5-6, I=Gr.2-5.** *Amish. Fiction. Farm Life. Neighborliness. Interdependence. Consideration for Others. Appreciation of Other Lifestyles. Responsibility.* When lightning destroys the barn on a family farm, the Amish neighbors come together to raise a new barn in one day. Eight-year-old Matthew is given the responsibility of carrying the barn builder's instructions to the workers.

#### **LARGE-PRINT, EARLY READER BOOKS (1)**

*(Fiction books with large print and limited vocabulary, hence useful for the early reader)*

Isadora, Rachel. **Caribbean Dream.** Il. by author. Putnam, 1998. Unpaged. ISBN: 0399232303. **R=Gr.1-2, I=Gr.PreK-3.** *Caribbean. Fiction. Dreams. Lifestyles. Water Sports. Stimulating Oral Language. West Indies. ELL Material.* Beautiful, pastel watercolor illustrations accompanied with simple, repetitive text depict children engaged in activities representative of a West Indian lifestyle such as sailing, swimming, smiling, hiding, and fishing.

#### **EMERGENT-READER TRANSITIONAL BOOKS (2)**

*(Fiction books with numerous pictures in which the text conveys meaning independent of the illustrations; useful for the newly-fluent reader as a transition to longer books)*

Hood, Susan. **Too-Tall Paul, Too-Small Paul.** Photographs by Dorothy Handelman. Millbrook Press, 1998. 31 pp. ISBN: 0761320210. **R=Gr.2-3, I=Gr.K-5.** *African Americans. Fiction. Friendship. Real Kids Readers Series. Stories in Rhyme. Size Comparisons. Name Calling. Self-Acceptance.* Two boys named Paul, one who thinks that he is too tall and the other who believes he is too short, become friends. They teach their classmates not to judge them because of their size as they practice magic tricks together.

Walker, Sally. **The 18 Penny Goose.** Il. by Ellen Beier. Harper-Collins, 1998. 61 pp. ISBN: 006027557X. **R=Gr.2-3, I=Gr.2-5.** *Geese. Fiction. New Jersey. History (1775-1783). American Revolution. Persuasion. I Can Read Series.* When her family is fleeing from British foraging raiders, Letty writes them a note asking them to spare her goose.

#### **FICTION (11)**

*(Books of prose that may have some basis in fact but which are primarily a product of the author's imagination)*

Block, Francesca Lia. **I Was a Teenage Fairy.** HarperCollins, 1998. 186 pp. ISBN: 0060277483. **R=Gr.5-6, I=Gr.9-12.** *Fairies. Fiction. Child Sexual Abuse. Los Angeles (CA). Humor. Sarcasm. Romance. Parent-Child Relationships. Friendships. Independence.* A feisty, lovable fairy named Mab helps teen model Barbie Marks deal with a repressed memory of molestation, confront her neglectful and exploitive mother, and form a meaningful relationship with a heartthrob.

Cormier, Robert. **Heroes.** Delacorte, 1998. 135 pp. ISBN: 0385325908. **R=Gr.6-7, I=Gr.7-12.** *Orphans. Fiction. Revenge. World War II. Veterans. Flashbacks.* Francis Joseph Cassavant's world falls apart when, at age 15, he is betrayed by his hero. He joins the Army and by 18 is a hero, has no face, and plots revenge. Exploring the dark side of human nature, Cormier asks readers to question the concept of heroism.

Ferris, Jean. **Bad.** Farrar, 1998. 181 pp. ISBN: 0374304793. **R=Gr.6-7, I=Gr.7-A.** *Juvenile Delinquency. Fiction. Belonging. Self-esteem. Alienation. Dysfunctional Families.* Feeling alienated from her widowed father, 16-year-old Dallas associates with losers, ends up being the only one caught when they try to rob a convenience store, and is sentenced to 6 months in the Girls' Rehabilitation Center.

Flake, Sharon. **The Skin I'm In.** Hyperion/Jump at the Sun, 1998. 171 pp. ISBN: 0786804440. **R=Gr.5-6, I=Gr.6-8.** *African Americans. Fiction. School Stories. Self-esteem. Teachers. Peer Pressure. Self-Acceptance. Maturation.* Embarrassed about her dark skin and clothes, 13-year-old Maleeka Madison falls into the wrong crowd who exploit her insecurities until she meets a new teacher with a birthmark on her face who is secure in her identify.

Miklowitz, Gloria. **Masada.** Eerdmans, 1998. 188 pp. ISBN: 0802851657. **R=Gr.6-7, I=Gr.7-A.** *Jews. History. Fiction. Masada - Siege, 72-73. Point of View.*

*Courage.* In 70 AD, the Roman Tenth Legion, led by Flavius Silva, marches across the Judea desert and prepares their attack on the Jews on the Mount of Masada, led by Eleazar ben Ya'ir. The siege is told alternately from the point of view of Simon, the 17-year-old son of Eleazar and Flavius.

Paulsen, Gary. **Soldier's Heart.** Delacorte, 1998. 106 pp. ISBN: 0385324987. **R**=Gr.5-6, **I**=Gr.7-10. *U.S. History. Civil War Studies. Horror of Battle. Monotony of Military Camp Life.* Fifteen-year-old Charley Goddard claims to be 18 so he can enlist in the First Minnesota Volunteers of the Union Army, fight the Rebels, and not miss out on the opportunity of a lifetime.

Rowling, J. K. **Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone.** Levine, 1998. 309 pp. ISBN: 0590353403. **R**=Gr.5-6, **I**=Gr.4-10. *England. Fiction. Fantasies. School Stories. Witches. Wizards. Orphans. Family Relationships. Friendships. Humor. Magic.* Harry Potter, an orphan who has grown up in a vile household totally ignorant of his powers, develops his magical powers with friends at the British-boarding-school-like Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

Ryan, Pam. **Riding Freedom.** Scholastic, 1998. 138 pp. ISBN: 059095766X. **R**=Gr.4-5, **I**=Gr.4-7. *California. History. Fiction. Impostors and Imposture. Orphans. Women's Studies. Historical Fiction. Read Aloud.* Charlotte "Charley" Parkhurst, at age 12 and disguised as a boy, runs away from an orphanage to make a life for herself. She lands in California, purchases a ranch, and secretly votes in the presidential election of 1868.

Sachar, Louis. **Holes.** Farrar, 1998. 233 pp. ISBN: 0374332657. **R**=Gr.6-7, **I**=Gr.7-9. *Buried Treasure. Fiction. Friendship. Homelessness. Juvenile Delinquency. Newbery Award (1999). Curses. Friendship. Persistence. Self-Esteem.* Suffering from a curse placed on his great-great grandfather, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a juvenile detention camp in the Texas desert where he is required to dig holes to "build character" but really to look for buried treasure.

Warner, Sally. **Sort of Forever.** Knopf, 1998. 136 pp. ISBN: 0679986480. **R**=Gr.4-5, **I**=Gr.5-8. *Cancer. Fiction. Friendship. Death. Loss. Friendship. Loyalty. Emotional Impact of Illness. Hope.* In this poignant story with a strong voice, 12-year-old Cady watches her best friend, Nana, cope with cancer, a disease that threatens to take away her humor, strength, and ulti-

mately her life.

Wilson, Diane. **I Rode a Horse of Milk White Jade.** Orchard, 1998. 232 pp. ISBN: 0531330249. **R**=Gr.7-8, **I**=Gr.7-12. *Horses. Fiction. Luck. Mongolia. History. Setting. Meeting Goals. Facing Adversity. Historical Fiction.* Oyuna tells her granddaughter how she secretly joined the army of Kublai Khan in 1280. Her bravery, sensitivity, and tenacity empowered her to bring luck to her village by winning the annual horse race.

### STORY COLLECTION (2)

(A collection of fictional short stories  
by one or more authors)

Fraustino, Lisa. **Dirty Laundry.** Viking, 1998. 181 pp. ISBN: 0670879118. **R**=Gr.7-8, **I**=Gr.7-12. *Children's Literature. Fiction. Family Problems. Secrets. Short Stories. Stimulating Creative Writing. Teen Problems.* Eleven well-written, dramatic short stories from outstanding young adult authors are centered on serious or humorous family secrets ranging from plagiarism and child abuse to an uncle getting a sex change operation.

Johnson, Angela. **Gone from Home.** Dorling Kindersley, 1998. 104 pp. ISBN: 0789424991. **R**=Gr.5-6, **I**=Gr.7-12. *Kindness. Fiction. Short Stories. Belonging. Home. Altruism.* Brief emotion-packed dramas with a couple of slapstick comedies to lighten the tone portray justice with characters performing compassionate acts of kindness.

### 100-PHILOSOPHY AND PSYCHOLOGY (1)

Wick, Walter. **Optical Tricks.** Photographs by author. Scholastic, 1998. Unpaged. ISBN: 0590222279. **R**=Gr.4-5, **I**=Gr.4-9. *Optical Illusions. Visual Perception. Observational Skills.* Color photographs demonstrate optical illusions created by light, shadows, camouflage, perspective, and mirrors. Each features a description with clues which asks the reader to identify what causes the illusion.

### 200-RELIGIONS (3)

Swartz, Nancy. **In Our Image: God's First Creatures.** Il. by Melanie Hall. Jewish Lights, 1998. 32 pp. ISBN: 1879045990. **R**=Gr.2-3, **I**=Gr.PreK-4. *Creation. God. Harmony Among Living Things. Human Characteristics. Read Aloud.* Before creating humans, God asks all the creatures and nature to offer gifts to the humans. In exchange the humans would care for them. Each animal's contribution reflects a characteristic trait.

Manushkin, Fran. **Miriam's Cup.** Il. by Bob Dacey. Scholastic, 1998. Unpaged. ISBN: 0590677209. **R**=Gr.3-4, **I**=Gr.2-6. *Bible Stories. Passover. Women's Studies. Jewish Studies. Prophecies.* In a contemporary Passover celebration, the story of Miriam, Moses's sister, is told. She prophesied Moses' birth and escape from the Egyptian king's edict that Jewish male babies be slain. A song celebrating Miriam by Debbie Friedman is on the back cover.

Mayer, Marianna. **Pegasus.** Il. by K. Y. Craft. Morrow, 1998. Unpaged. ISBN: 0688133835. **R**=Gr.4-5, **I**=Gr.3-7. *Greek Mythology. Epic Tale of Adventure. Study of Ancient Greece. Read Aloud.* An elegant retelling of the Greek myth about the companionship and trust between Prince Bellerophon and Pegasus, the winged horse, and their defeat of the Chimera, a terrifying monster.

### 300-SOCIAL SCIENCES (10)

Ancona, George. **Fiesta Fireworks.** Lothrop, 1998. Unpaged. ISBN: 0688148182. **R**=Gr.5-6, **I**=Gr.1-4. *Fireworks. Festivals. Mexican Holidays. Social Life and Traditions in Mexico. Photo Essay.* Photo essay follows a young girl in Tultepec, Mexico, a city famous for its pyrotechnists or fireworks makers, as her family and neighbors prepare for the fiesta honoring San Juan de Dios, the patron saint of Tultepec.

Bell, Ruth. **Changing Bodies, Changing Lives.** Times Books, 1998. 411 pp. ISBN: 081292990X. **R**=Gr.7-8, **I**=Gr.7-12. *Sex Education. Maturation.* Revised, expanded, and updated edition is an explicit discussion of teenage sexuality including topics such as puberty, relationships, emotional and physical health, eating disorders, substance abuse, abuse and violence, STDs, safe sex, and pregnancy. Personal comments from teens provide a sense of honesty and authenticity.

Cave, Kathryn. **W Is for World.** Il. with photographs. Silver, 1998. Unpaged. ISBN: 0382421132. **R**=Gr.3-4, **I**=Gr.2-7. *Alphabet Books. Human Geography. World Community. Diversity.* Alphabet book depicts the human family around the world celebrating food, home, family, work, clothes, books, play, music, peace, and a sense of self. Simple and concise text accompanies paragraph with more information.

Ford, Michael. **Outspoken.** Morrow, 1998. 240 pp. ISBN: 0688148964. **R**=Gr.5-6, **I**=Gr.8-12. *Homosexuality. Gay Men. Lesbians.* Eleven gay individuals, including a doctor, a police officer, a cartoonist, and a business executive, relate their childhood, coming out,

and leading a fulfilling life within and beyond the gay community.

Horton, Chris. **The Encyclopedia of Cars.** Chelsea House, 1998. 7 volumes. ISBN: 0791048659. **R**=Gr.7-8, **I**=Gr.8-12. *Automobiles. History. Encyclopedias. Industrial Education. Business Education. Transportation.* Detailed information on nearly 200 different cars is arranged alphabetically by manufacturer. Each automotive line is described historically and mechanically, and its many models are photographed, sometimes with cutaways.

Jackson, Ellen. **Turn of the Century.** Il. by Jan Davey. Charlesbridge, 1998. Unpaged. ISBN: 088106369X. **R**=Gr.4-5, **I**=Gr.K-8. *Children. British History. Social Conditions. United States History. Millennium Change.* Eleven children, each from a different turn of the century from 1000 through 2000 AD, are depicted at work, play, and school.

Kuklin, Susan. **Iqbal Masih and the Crusaders Against Child Slavery.** Holt, 1998. 133 pp. ISBN: 0805054596. **R**=Gr.5-6, **I**=Gr.4-12. *Children. Employment. Children's Rights. Iqbal Masih (1982-1995). Economic Conditions. Human Rights. Read Aloud.* A story of the brief but inspirational life of Pakistani child-activist, Iqbal Masih, who rallied against debt-bonded child labor, particularly in the carpet industry. In 1992, 12-year-old Iqbal received the Reebok Human Rights Award and was assassinated four months later. Includes photographs, websites, notes, glossary, bibliography.

Lester, Julius. **From Slave Ship to Freedom Road.** Il. by Red Brown. Dial, 1998. 40 pp. ISBN: 0803718934. **R**=Gr.5-6, **I**=Gr.7-9. *African Americans. Slavery. American History. Art Appreciation. Freedom. The Underground Railroad.* Author's personal responses to a series of paintings about slavery and the African American experience create empathy for the victims while encouraging readers to examine their own capacities for both good and evil.

Myers, Walter. **Amistad.** Dutton, 1998. 99 pp. ISBN: 0525459707. **R**=Gr.5-6, **I**=Gr.5-10. *Amistad. Joseph Cinque (1811-1852). Mutiny. Slave Trade. Freedom. Pre-Civil War American Politics.* This dramatically-written account begins in West Africa in 1839 with the capture of Cinque, the tortuous trip to Cuba, the revolt aboard Amistad, and its subsequent capture in Connecticut. It culminates with the series of court trials that led to the captives' release.

Parker, David. **Stolen Dreams.** Lerner, 1998. 112 pp. ISBN: 0822529602. **R**=Gr.4-5, **I**=Gr.4-A. *Children. Employment. Child Labor. Human Rights. Migrant Workers. Children's Rights.* Photographs and text reveal an honest portrait of the more than 250 million children in India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Indonesia, Mexico, and the United States who work to sustain their basic needs of food, clothing, and shelter.

### 398.2-FOLKLORE (5)

Babbitt, Natalie (reteller). **Ouchi II.** by Fred Marcellino. HarperCollins, 1998. Unpaged. ISBN: 0062050672. **R**=Gr.4-5, **I**=Gr.4-8. *German Folklore. Prophecies. The Devil. Humor. Kings. Read Aloud. Storytelling. Grimms Fairy Tale.* A baby born with a crown-shaped birthmark on his backside is destined to be king. The King, however, does everything to disrupt this prophecy, including sending him on an errand to Hell.

Beeler, Selby. **Throw Your Tooth on the Roof.** II. by G. Brian Karas. Houghton, 1998. Unpaged. ISBN: 0395891086. **R**=Gr.3-4, **I**=Gr.K-3. *Folklore. Cross-cultural Studies. Dental Hygiene. Teeth. Geography.* A unique and charming book which takes young readers to every continent of the world to learn about how children in different cultures deal with losing a tooth.

Bodkin, Odds. **The Crane Wife.** II. by Gennady Spirin. Harcourt/Gulliver, 1998. Unpaged. ISBN: 0152 014071. **R**=Gr.4-5, **I**=Gr.2-7. *Japanese Folklore. Trust. Kindness. Betrayal. Read Aloud.* A poor sailmaker rescues an injured crane who later returns in the form of a beautiful woman who becomes his wife and weaves magical sails. She disappears when the sailmaker betrays her trust.

Demi. **The Greatest Treasure.** Scholastic, 1998. Unpaged. ISBN: 0590313398. **R**=Gr.2-3, **I**=Gr.K-5. *Chinese Folklore. Sources of Happiness. Music. Proverbs. Read Aloud.* A poor man discovers the burden of wealth and a rich man the wealth of happiness. Lively, vividly colored drawings which are both humorous and exquisite accompany the easy-to-read text and timeless message.

San Souci, Robert. **Cendrillon.** II. by Brian Pinkney. Simon, 1998. Unpaged. ISBN: 068980668X. **R**=Gr.4-5, **I**=Gr.3-8. *Folklore. Fairy Tales. Cinderella Stories. Point of View. Read Aloud.* Narrated by the godmother, this Creole variant of the Cinderella story set on a Caribbean island tells how the godmother uses a magic wand to help Cendrillon find her true love.

### 400-LANGUAGES (1)

Lester, Alison. **Alice and Aldo.** II. by author. Houghton, 1998. Unpaged. ISBN: 0395870925. **R**=Gr.1-2, **I**=Gr.PreK-2. *Alphabet Books. Expanding Vocabulary and Sight Words. Read Aloud.* Alice and her stuffed animal, Aldo, go through an active day. Page borders act as a picture dictionary.

### 500-PURE SCIENCES (11)

Arnold, Caroline. **El Nino.** Clarion, 1998. 48 pp. ISBN: 0395776023. **R**=Gr.6-7, **I**=Gr.6-9. *El Nino. Weather. Climate.* The influence of El Nino and La Nina are discussed in a very readable fashion. The effects of weather conditions including wind, air pressure, temperature, etc. are felt by humans, wildlife, and sea life.

Arnosky, Jim. **Watching Desert Wildlife.** National Geographic Society, 1998. Unpaged. ISBN: 079 2273044. **R**=Gr.4-5, **I**=Gr.1-6. *Desert Animals. Observational Skills. American Southwest Desert.* Naturalist Jim Arnosky visits parts of the Sonoran and Chihuahuan Deserts and shares his first-hand observations and illustrations about the animal inhabitants including lizards, desert deer, birds of prey, and snakes.

Brett-Surman, Michael. **James Gurney.** Greenwich Workshop, 1998. 48 pp. ISBN: 0867130466. **R**=Gr.5-6, **I**=Gr.6-10. *Dinosaurs. Postage Stamps. Hobbies. Careers.* Thirteen dinosaurs from Jurassic and Cretaceous periods that were highlighted on U.S. postage stamps are presented. Includes a description of how stamps are created and the behavior and habitats of each dinosaur.

Hooper, Meredith. **The Drop in My Drink.** II. by Chris Coady. Viking, 1998. Unpaged. ISBN: 0670 876186. **R**=Gr.3-4, **I**=Gr.3-8. *Water. Change. Geology. Environmental Concerns.* Explains how water constantly moves, changes, and renews itself. Discusses the origin of water, the water cycle, how water has affected the evolution of life and geology, and why water should be the top environmental concern.

Huck, Charlotte. **A Creepy Countdown.** II. by Jos. A. Smith. Greenwillow, 1998. Unpaged. ISBN: 06 88154611. **R**=Gr.2-3, **I**=Gr.PreK-2. *Counting Books. Halloween. Rhyming Stories. Scary Read Aloud.* A rhyming Halloween counting book from one to ten and back again has black-and-white scratchboard illustrations with color overlays framed in color over an eerie black background.

Johnson, Stephen. **City by Numbers.** Photographed

by author. Viking, 1998. Unpaged. ISBN: 0670872512. **R**=Wordless, **I**=Gr.K-12. *Counting Books. Cities. New York. Observation Skills.* Fascinating color photos of natural scenes from New York City invite readers to discover embedded numbers from one to twenty-one.

Schwartz, David. **G Is for Googol.** Il. by Marissa Moss. Tricycle Press, 1998. 57 pp. ISBN: 1883672589. **R**=Gr.6-7, **I**=Gr.7-A. *Alphabet Books. Mathematics. Read Aloud.* Using the alphabet as an organizer, mathematically related terms are clearly explained. Includes the binary numbers, size of Jupiter, light years, probability, symmetry, tessellations, Venn diagrams, and the Mobius strip.

Scott, Elaine. **Close Encounters.** Hyperion, 1998. 64 pp. ISBN: 0786821205. **R**=Gr.5-6, **I**=Gr.4-8. *Hubble Space Telescope. Spacecraft. Outer Space. Solar System. The Universe. Scientists.* Provides a brief history of astronomy and notable astronomers. Includes how the telescope has helped scientists explain the formation of planets, the life cycle of stars, and the phenomenon of black holes.

Swinburne, Stephen. **Moon in Bear's Eyes.** Il. by Crista Forest. Millbrook Press, 1998. Unpaged. ISBN: 0761300597. **R**=Gr.4-5, **I**=Gr.K-5. *Grizzly Bears. Endangered Species. Yellowstone National Park. Language Development. Read Aloud.* A mother grizzly and her two cubs are portrayed awakening from winter hibernation. As the mother hunts for food, the story reveals basic information about the behavior, growth, habits, and characteristics of these bears.

Wright-Frierson, Virginia. **An Island Scrapbook.** Il. by author. Simon, 1998. Unpaged. ISBN: 0689815638. **R**=Gr.4-5, **I**=Gr.K-12. *Islands. North Carolina. Ecology. Marine Animals. Journal Writing. Art. Observational Skills.* An artist and her young daughter explore a North Carolina barrier island and through art create a scrapbook of treasured memories to share their observations during the last day of their summer stay.

Yolen, Jane. **Welcome to the Ice House.** Il. by Laura Regan. Putnam, 1998. Unpaged. ISBN: 0399230114. **R**=Gr.3-4, **I**=Gr.PreK-4. *Animals. Arctic Regions. Seasons. Read Aloud.* A vivid and poetic portrayal of animal life in the Arctic region through the very different seasons is augmented with sensitive, dramatic paintings.

**600-APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (7)**  
Bingham, Caroline. **Monster Machines.** Dorling

Kindersley, 1998. 32 pp. ISBN: 0789427966. **R**=Gr.2-3, **I**=Gr.K-4. *Motor Vehicles. Transportation.* An oversized format that describes monster trucks, jumbo jets, dump trucks, locomotives, tractors, and large fire engines appeals to younger readers.

Lauber, Patricia. **The True-or-False Book of Cats.** Il. by Rosalyn Schanzer. National Geographic Society, 1998. 31 pp. ISBN: 0792234405. **R**=Gr.3-4, **I**=Gr.PreK-5. *Cats. Pets.* Each 2-page spread about a belief regarding cats is introduced by a true/false question that whets curiosity. The book is informative, lively, light-hearted, and appealing.

Macaulay, David. **The New Way Things Work.** Houghton, 1998. 400 pp. ISBN: 0395938473. **R**=Gr.6-7, **I**=Gr.5-A. *Technology. Scientific Principles. Machines. Industrial Technology.* This updated version provides comprehensive coverage of the workings of hundreds of machines, inventions, devices, and digital technologies, such as holograms, hang gliders, can openers, and modems.

McMillan, Bruce. **Salmon Summer.** Houghton, 1998. 32 pp. ISBN: 0395845440. **R**=Gr.4-5, **I**=Gr.1-5. *Fisheries. Alaska. Indians of North America. Kodiak Island. Summer Vacation. Ancestral Traditions. Photo Essay. Read Aloud.* Alex, a 9-year-old native Aleut of Kodiak Island, Alaska, spends every summer with his family fishing for salmon. The highlight of his vacation is fishing for the giant halibut that can weigh much more than he does.

Platt, Richard. **Incredible Body.** Il. by Stephen Biesty. Dorling Kindersley, 1998. 32 pp. ISBN: 0789434245. **R**=Gr.5-6, **I**=Gr.4-A. *Anatomy. Human Body. Cross-section Book.* Two tiny explorers travel through the entire human body investigating how it works. They meet various "teams" who explain exactly what they do to keep the body working.

Rosen, Michael. **Down to Earth.** Harcourt, 1998. 64 pp. ISBN: 0152013415. **R**=Gr.5-6, **I**=Gr.2-A. *Cooking. Gardening. Handicrafts. Author/Illustrators. Memories. Creative Writing.* Forty-one children's authors/illustrators share their gardening recollections and experiences, enhanced by large exquisite illustrations donated to benefit "Share Our Strength," an anti-hunger organization. Includes recipes.

Sturges, Philemon. **Bridges Are to Cross.** Il. by Giles Laroche. Putnam, 1998. Unpaged. ISBN: 0399231749. **R**=Gr.2-3, **I**=Gr.1-7. *Bridges. Construction. Art Techniques.* A book which showcases 17 unique bridges

from a simple log to a rainbow that reflects our values, our life styles, and our solutions. Each 2-page spread features a 3-D illustration as well as information about the bridge.

### 700-Arts (6)

Cooke, Mervyn. **The Chronicle of Jazz.** Abbeville, 1998. 256 pp. ISBN: 0789203995. **R**=Gr.7-8, **I**=Gr.7-A. *Jazz Music. Music History. American History. Biography. Chronology.* Traces the origins and history of jazz music and its musicians. Tells how jazz has influenced other musical and artistic forms. Includes archival images, caricature and stereotypes of African Americans, discography, etc.

Hamilton, Jake. **Special Effects in Film and Television.** Dorling Kindersley, 1998. 63 pp. ISBN: 078942813X. **R**=Gr.5-6, **I**=Gr.5-9. *Animation. Cinematography. Special Effects. Film Industry. Magic. Computers.* The secrets to many of the special effects used in the film industry are presented with full-page color photographs and easy-to-read text. Includes puppetry techniques, animation, and computer technology.

Igus, Toyomi. **I See the Rhythm.** Il. by Michele Wood. Children's Book Press, 1998. 32 pp. ISBN: 0892391510. **R**=Gr.5-6, **I**=Gr.5-A. *African American Music. History. Music Appreciation. Art Appreciation.* Chronicles the history of African American music from its African origins to jazz to rap/hip hop. The rich text features free verse poetry interspersed with song lyrics and a timeline highlighting musical and historical events.

Marcus, Leonard. **A Caldecott Celebration.** Walker, 1998. 49 pp. ISBN: 0802786588. **R**=Gr.7-8, **I**=Gr.5-A. *Caldecott Medal. Illustrators. Biography. Careers.* Six Caldecott Award-winning artists, one from each decade since the 1940s (Robert McCloskey, Marcia Brown, Maurice Sendak, William Steig, Chris Van Allsburg, and David Wiesner), are profiled.

Morris, Ann. **Play.** Photographs by Ken Heyman. Lothrop, 1998. 29 pp. ISBN: 0688145531. **R**=Gr.K-1, **I**=Gr.PreK-1. *Play. Getting Along with Others. Diversity. ELL Material.* Beautiful color photographs show how children and families all around the world play.

Reynolds, David. **Star Wars: Incredible Cross-Sections.** Dorling Kindersley, 1998. 32 pp. ISBN: 0789434806. **R**=Gr.5-6, **I**=Gr.4-10. *Motion Pictures. Science Fiction. Cross-Section Drawing. Vehicle Design. Transportation.* This ultimate guide to **Star Wars**

vehicles and spacecraft takes a reference approach to revealing the inner workings of the key transportation models used in the original **Star Wars** trilogy.

### 800-LITERATURE (5)

Clinton, Catherine. **I, Too, Sing America.** Il. by Stephen Alcorn. Houghton, 1998. 128 pp. ISBN: 0395895995. **R**=Gr.6-7, **I**=Gr.7-A. *African Americans. Poetry. African American Authors. American History. Literature. Biography.* This outstanding anthology of 36 poems by 25 African American poets, covering the first half of the 18th through the 20th centuries and arranged chronologically with historical notes, explores the African American experience.

Florian, Douglas. **Insectlopedia: Poems and Paintings.** Il. by author. Harcourt, 1998. 47 pp. ISBN: 0152013067. **R**=Gr.3-4, **I**=Gr.K-6. *Insects. Poetry. Art. Read Aloud.* Twenty-one short, illustrated poems about 21 different insects (such as the cricket and the dragonfly) provide fanciful yet accurate descriptions of the insects.

George, Kristine. **Old Elm Speaks.** Il. by Kate Kiessler. Clarion, 1998. 48 pp. ISBN: 0395876117. **R**=Gr.3-4, **I**=Gr.2-6. *Trees. Poetry. Wonders of Nature. Read Aloud.* A collection of 30 original poems centering on trees and observations in the natural world includes a variety of styles and voices with effective use of figurative language.

Philip, Neil. **War and the Pity of War.** Clarion, 1998. 96 pp. ISBN: 0395849829. **R**=Gr.6-7, **I**=Gr.7-12. *Poetry. War. World War I. World War II. The Vietnam War. Courage.* This anthology of over 70 poems shows war's horror from ancient China to today. Includes poems by Yeats, Kipling, Auden, and Owen as well as those translated from French, German, Polish, Russian, and Japanese.

Wood, Nancy. **Sacred Fire.** Il. by Frank Howell. Doubleday, 1998. 73 pp. ISBN: 0385325150. **R**=Gr.5-6, **I**=Gr.8-A. *American Poetry. Indians of North America. Pueblo Indians. Symbolization.* The Sacred Fire of the Pueblo Indians represents wisdom, purification, potential, longevity, hope, and is a symbol used to remember the ways of their ancestors. This collection of poems and prose reflects the interconnectedness of the people and nature, their spirit, and threats to their well-being.

### 900-GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY (13)

Ballard, Robert D. **Ghost Liners.** Little, 1998. 64 pp.



ISBN: 0316080209. **R**=Gr.5-6, **I**=Gr.5-10. *Sea Stories. Shipwrecks. Transportation. Historical Events. Human Tragedy.* Ship disasters of the 20th century are presented in color photographs, illustrations, and text. Describes the story of individual sunken ships including the Titanic, Empress of Iceland, Lusitania, Britannic, and Andrea Doria.

Blumberg, Rhoda. **What's the Deal?** National Geographic Society, 1998. 144 pp. ISBN: 0792270134. **R**=Gr.6-7, **I**=Gr.5-12. *France. Foreign Relations. Louisiana Purchase. Napoleon I. U.S. History (1783-1809). Politics.* The drama and political intrigue that lay behind the purchase of the Louisiana territory by Thomas Jefferson from Napoleon in 1803 is effectively told in this account of one of the most significant events in American history.

Deem, James. **Bodies from the Bog.** Houghton, 1998. 42 pp. ISBN: 0395857848. **R**=Gr.5-6, **I**=Gr.5-8. *Prehistoric People. Europe. Photo Essay. Archeology.* Prehistoric bodies found in Northern European peat bogs being cut for fuel help scientists learn the year, season, and possible cause of death. A chapter on the preservation process reveals the unique properties of a peat bog.

Haskins, James. **African Beginnings.** Il. by Floyd Cooper. Lothrop, 1998. 48 pp. ISBN: 0688102573. **R**=Gr.5-6, **I**=Gr.4-7. *Africa. History. African Beginning Series. Culture. Economics.* Providing a glimpse of the important, historical, African civilization of Nubia, Egypt, Kush, Meroe, Ghana, Mali, Songhay, Benin, Great Zimbabwe, and Ghana, this book touches on the spread of Islam, European trade, slavery and colonization, music and dance, and art and religion.

Jenkins, Steve. **Hottest, Coldest, Highest, Deepest.** Houghton, 1998. Unpaged. ISBN: 0395899990. **R**=Gr.4-5, **I**=Gr.2-6. *Geography. Collage. Maps. Comparison/Contrast.* This book describes remarkable places on Earth including the hottest, coolest, highest, deepest, and longest. Illustrations help compare the unusual locations with known objects.

Kaplan, William. **One More Border.** Il. by Stephen Taylor. Historical Photographs. Greenwood, 1998. 61 pp. ISBN: 0888993323. **R**=Gr.4-5, **I**=Gr.4-10. *Jews. Lithuania. Biography. Refugees. World War II. Holocaust Studies. ELL Material.* Kaplan recounts how his grandparents managed to take their family to safety during World War II. Includes information about Sugihara, the Japanese consul in Lithuania, who saved

many Jews by granting them visas.

McKee, Timothy. **No More Strangers Now.** Dorling Kindersley, 1998. 107 pp. ISBN: 0789425246. **R**=Gr.6-7, **I**=Gr.8-12. *South Africa. Race Relations. Social Issues. Multiculturalism. Change.* Twelve teens coming of age after apartheid reveal a collective concern for issues such as racism, reconciliation, and poverty through their personal perspectives of how their lives are changing since Mandela became president.

Peacock, Louise. **Crossing the Delaware.** Il. by Walter Lyon Krudop. Atheneum, 1998. 40 pp. ISBN: 0689809948. **R**=Gr.5-6, **I**=Gr.3-9. *Battle of Trenton (1776). U.S. History. American Revolution. George Washington. Hardships.* The Battle of Trenton, George Washington's crossing the Delaware River, and the well-trained Hessian soldiers are described using letters of a fictional soldier, true accounts of the period, and the author's narrative.

Rabinovici, Schoschana. **Thanks to My Mother.** Dial, 1998. 246 pp. ISBN: 0803722354. **R**=Gr.6-7, **I**=Gr.8-12. *Holocaust. Jews. Lithuania. Personal Narratives.* Translated from German. Her mother helped Rabinovici survive in the Vilna Ghetto, three concentration camps, and an 11-day death march. She graphically describes the ghetto and camp life.

Reinhard, Johan. **Discovering the Inca Ice Maiden.** Il. with photographs. National Geographic Society, 1998. 48 pp. ISBN: 0792271424. **R**=Gr.5-6, **I**=Gr.4-12. *Incas. Antiquities. Indians of South America. Mummies. Peru. Anthropology. Careers. Adventure. First Person Accounts.* Anthropologist and mountaineer Johan Reinhard describes the discovery, as the result of volcanic eruptions, of an over 500-year-old Peruvian mummy in the Andes and its subsequent retrieval and scientific study.

Rockwell, Anne. **Our Earth.** Harcourt/Silver Whistle, 1998. Unpaged. ISBN: 0152016791. **R**=Gr.2-3, **I**=Gr.2-5. *Geography. Planet Earth. Geology. ELL Material.* This is a simple introduction to various aspects of the planet Earth such as glaciers, islands, continents, volcanoes, coral reefs, rivers, and biomes.

Sis, Peter. **Tibet.** Il. by author. Farrar, 1998. Unpaged. ISBN: 0374375526. **R**=Gr.5-6, **I**=Gr.5-12. *Tibet (China). Description. Caldecott Honor (1999). Art Appreciation. Tibet Culture. Diaries.* Peter Sis grew up in Prague in the 1950s where his father worked as a filmmaker. When his father is ordered by the Commu-

nists to instruct the Chinese in documentary filmmaking, he disappears into Tibet for 2 years during which time he keeps a diary. Peter's memories are interwoven with his father's stories.

Yolen, Jane. **House, House.** Marshall Cavendish, 1998. Unpaged. ISBN: 0761450130. **R=Gr.4-5, I=Gr.1-A.** *Dwellings. Hatfield, MA. History. Change. Communication. Transportation. Education. Economics. Crops. Food. Diseases. Technology.* A series of houses are shown as they existed in the 1900s and how they appear now. The accompanying text discusses differences between the two eras.

### 920-BIOGRAPHY-AUTOBIOGRAPHY (10)

Anderson, William. **Laura's Album.** HarperCollins, 1998. 80 pp. ISBN: 0060278420. **R=Gr.6-7, I=Gr.5-11.** *American Authors. Biography. Women's Studies. American History.* Noted Little House historian has compiled a fascinating collection of mementos and memorabilia that reveal the personal and private world of the beloved American author Laura Ingalls Wilder.

Carlson, Laurie. **Boss of the Plains.** Dorling Kindersley, 1998. Unpaged. ISBN: 0789424797. **R=Gr.4-5, I=Gr.2-9.** *Hats. History. Biography. American Social History. Inventions.* John B. Stetson, a hatter, decides to go out West in the 1860s and, through his need to protect himself from all kinds of weather, invents the strange, large-brimmed "Boss of the Plains" which cowboys still love to wear.

Cummings, Pat. **Talking with Adventures.** National Geographic Society, 1998. 95 pp. ISBN: 0792270681. **R=Gr.5-6, I=Gr.5-9.** *Occupations. Scientists. Biography. Interviews. Material for Reluctant Readers.* Twelve men and women scientists explain their occupations by answering interview questions. Photos reveal each person when they were young and at work.

Freedman, Russell. **Martha Graham, A Dancer's Life.** Clarion, 1998. 175 pp. ISBN: 0395746558. **R=Gr.6-7, I=Gr.7-A.** *Choreographers. Biography. Dancers. Careers. Art. Determination. Originality in Achieving Goals. Women's Studies.* This insightful biography of Martha Graham, an innovative choreographer and one of the founders of modern dance, immediately hooks readers' interest with its simple dramatic prose and expressive photography.

Gollub, Matthew. **Cool Melons — Turn to Frogs! The Life and Poems of Issa.** Il. by Kazuko G. Stone. Lee & Low, 1998. Unpaged. ISBN: 1880000717.

**R=Gr.4-5, I=Gr.4-7.** *Haiku. Japanese poetry. Japanese Culture. Creative Writing. Stepparents. Biography.* A moving picture-book biography of Issa, the beloved 18th century Japanese haiku poet. Interweaves 30 haiku that illustrate aspects of the poet's life which included much loss and a difficult stepparent.

Krull, Kathleen. **Lives of the Presidents.** Il. by Kathryn Hewitt. Harcourt, 1998. 96 pp. ISBN: 0817240497. **R=Gr.5-6, I=Gr.5-A.** *Presidents. Biography. American History.* Profiles the personal habits, idiosyncrasies, and life circumstances of the 42 presidents of the U.S., focusing on the modern presidents and the most notable from the past.

Lobel, Anita. **No Pretty Pictures.** Greenwillow, 1998. 193 pp. ISBN: 0688159354. **R=Gr.7-8, I=Gr.7-A.** *Authors. Biography. Jewish Holocaust. Survival. World War II. Courage. Autobiography. Women's Studies.* Almost 5 years old when the Nazis invaded their Polish home, Anita and her brother were hidden by their Catholic nanny for 5 terrifying years. Captured by the Nazis, they endured the horrors of several concentration camps. Rescued by the Red Cross, they recovered from TB in Sweden before being reunited with their parents.

Martin, Jacqueline. **Snowflake Bentley.** Il. by Mary Azarian. Houghton, 1998. Unpaged. ISBN: 0395861624. **R=Gr.3-4, I=Gr.3-7.** *Meteorologists. Biography. Nature Photography. Caldecott Award (1999). Beauty. Persistence. Crystals.* A picture-book biography about Wilson Bentley, born in 1865 in Vermont, who spent his life in a single-minded pursuit photographing the beauty of nature's small wonders, particularly snowflake crystals.

Partridge, Elizabeth. **Restless Spirit.** Il. with photographs. Viking, 1998. 122 pp. ISBN: 067087888X. **R=Gr.6-7, I=Gr.7-A.** *Photographers. Biography. Careers. Photo Essay. Women's Studies. American History.* World-renowned photographer Dorothea Lange is the subject of this excellent photo essay augmented with letters, journals, and oral history. Reveals Lange's personal struggles in childhood, her tempestuous marriage, and her career as a documentary photographer who recorded the needy and oppressed during the 1930s and 1940s.

Pinkney, Andrea. **Duke Ellington.** Il. by Brian Pinkney. Hyperion, 1998. Unpaged. ISBN: 0786821507. **R=Gr.4-5, I=Gr.3-8.** *African Americans. Musicians. Biography. Composers. American*

*Culture. Caldecott Honor (1999). Jazz. Read Aloud.* Tells the story of jazz composer and performer Duke Ellington whose appearances at the Cotton Club in Harlem in the 1920s were legendary and whose musical accomplishments remain unparalleled. Written in a jazz rhythm.

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