



Kaye Anderson, Editor

California State University, Long Beach, CA

Bonnie O'Brian Nissman, Supervisor

Rochelle Arsenault

Jan Miyashita

Marlin S. More

Nancy Reich

Marilyn N. Robertson

Janet Sklar

Esther Sinofsky

Barbara Vercher

Los Angeles Unified School District Library Services

Los Angeles' 100 best books: 1999

For the fifth 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 selected the **Los Angeles' 100 Best Books**.

The selections were made from 6,766 juvenile titles published in 1999 which are included on their **Focus on Books CD-ROM** software, Version 3, available in January 2001. Along with 34 searchable fields for 42,461 titles, this version contains the new category of Notable Books for a Global Society (see *The Dragon Lode*, 19/1, Fall 2000, pp. 20-33).

The list is the result of thousands of hours of reading, writing, and researching. The primary staff contributors are nine educators who have over 200 years of teaching and book evaluation experience and knowledge that spans the curriculum. 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 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 1999**:

- ♦ 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)

Addy, Sharon. **Right Here on This Spot**. Il. by John Clapp. Houghton, 1999. 30 pp. ISBN: 0395730910. **R**=Gr. 2-3, **I**=Gr. 2-7. *Archeology. Fiction. Wisconsin. Antiquities. Critical thinking.* Poetic narrative depicts Grandpa discovering several artifacts when he digs in the cabbage fields of his Wisconsin farmland.

Atwell, Debby. **River**. Il. by author. Houghton, 1999. 31 pp. ISBN: 0395935466. **R**=Gr. 2-3, **I**=Gr. K-5. *Water Pollution. Fiction. Rivers. Environment. Ecology. Natural Resources. History. Making Changes.* **ELL**. Life in early America flourishes as animals and then people share the river's bounty. Abuse of the river's resources causes pollution in the name of progress until people change how they live.

Borden, Louise. A. **Lincoln and Me**. Il. by Ted Lewin. Scholastic, 1999. 30 pp. ISBN: 0590457144. **R**=Gr. 2-3, **I**=Gr. K-3. *Abraham Lincoln. American Presidents. Fiction. Self-perception. Self Acceptance.* The narrator shares Lincoln's physical appearance, his awkwardness, and his birthday. When Dad takes him and his brother to the Lincoln Memorial, he comes to accept that there is only one Lincoln and only one of him.

Mayer, Mercer. **Shibumi and the Kitemaker**. Il. by author. Marshall Cavendish, 1999. Unpaged. ISBN: 0761450548. **R**=Gr. 3-4, **I**=Gr. 4-8. *Fathers and Daughters. Fiction. Japan. Kites. Fairy and Folk Tales. Samurai. Cultural Diversity. Being Proactive.* The Emperor's daughter Shibumi lives a protected life behind the palace walls. When she discovers the poverty of her people, she determines to persuade her father to make changes and enlists the kitemaker's assistance.

Mollel, Tololwa. **My Rows and Piles of Coins**. Il. by E. B. Lewis. Clarion, 1999. 32 pp. ISBN: 0395751861. **R**=Gr. 4-5, **I**=Gr. 2-5. *Bicycles. Fiction. Money. Tanzania. Goals. Generosity. Family Life. African Culture. Watercolor Art.* A Tanzanian boy tells the story of carefully saving coins earned to buy a bicycle. When his parents learn of his goal, they find a way to help him achieve it.

Myers, Christopher. **Black Cat**. Il. by author. Scholastic, 1999. Unpaged. ISBN: 0590033751. **R**=Gr. 4-5, **I**=Gr. 3-10. *Cats. Fiction. City Life. Homeless Animals. Read Aloud. Mixed Media Collage Art. Figurative Language.* The harshness of urban life is revealed through image-filled poetry as a panther-like black cat "creeps, saunters, dances, and ducks" to survive in New York City.

Otto, Carolyn. **Pioneer Church**. Il. by Megan Lloyd. Holt, 1999. Unpaged. ISBN: 0805025545. **R**=Gr. 4-5, **I**=Gr. 3-8. *Church Buildings. Fiction. Pennsylvania. History.* The story of one of the first American churches and the community that built it is augmented with vibrant illustrations reminiscent of art from the period and an author's explanatory note.

Senisi, Ellen. **Reading Grows**. Il. by photographs. Whitman, 1999. Unpaged. ISBN: 0807568988. **R**=Gr. 1-2, **I**=Gr. PreK-3. *Literacy. Fiction. Concepts about Print. Read Aloud. Positive Expectations.* Using bright color photographs, the book discusses how reading starts, grows, and develops over time through exposure and practice.

Shannon, David. **David Goes to School**. Il. by author. Scholastic/Blue Sky, 1999. Unpaged. ISBN: 0590480871. **R**=Gr. K-1, **I**=Gr. PreK-3. *Behavior. Fiction. School Stories. Individuality. Read Aloud.* David, an exuberant young student, is the target of reprimands and commands throughout the school day, but he earns approval at the end. A companion book to the author's Caldecott Honor book, **No, David**.

Stevens, Janet. **Cook-a-Doodle-Do!** Il. by author. Harcourt, 1999. 46 pp. ISBN: 0152019243. **R**=Gr. 3-4, **I**=Gr. K-5. *Animals. Fiction. Baking. Cakes. Roosters. Cooking Vocabulary. Recipes. Folklore. Humor. Read Aloud.* Big Brown Rooster, great-grandson of Little Red Hen, follows her recipe for strawberry shortcake with the help of three friends. Their predictable misinterpretations of cooking terms make for hilarious results.

Taback, Simms. **Joseph Had a Little Overcoat**. Il. by author. Viking, 1999. Unpaged. ISBN: 0670878553. **R**=Gr. 2-3, **I**=Gr. K-5. *Clothing and Dress. Fiction. Humor. Caldecott Award. Singing. Art Appreciation. Jewish Culture. Die-Cut Collage Art.* Based upon a Yiddish folk song, this is a chain story in which a rural man's coat gets recycled into successively smaller shapes until it is nothing but a story or "something from nothing."

Wood, Douglas. **Grandad's Prayers of the Earth**. Il. by P. J. Lynch. Candlewick, 1999. 28 pp. ISBN:

076360660X. **R**=Gr. 4-5, **I**=Gr. 3-A. *Death. Fiction. Grandfathers. Nature. Prayer. The Environment.* Grandad explains that not only to people pray in many ways for their own reasons, but plants, trees, flowers, streams, rocks, and rivers pray and give a gift of beauty to life.

LARGE-PRINT, EARLY READER BOOKS (1)

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

Kopper, Lisa. **Daisy Knows Best.** Il. by author. Dutton, 1999. Unpaged. ISBN: 0525459154. **R**=Gr. 1-2, **I**=Gr. PreK-2. *Animals. Fiction. Babies. Baths. Dogs. Behaviors. Pets. Mischiefs.* When Daisy teaches her puppies how to do things, Baby follows right along.

EMERGENT-READER TRANSITIONAL BOOKS (1)

(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)

Low, Alice. **The Witch Who Was Afraid of Witches.** Il. by Jane Manning. HarperCollins, 1999. 44 pp. ISBN: 0060283068. **R**=Gr. 1-2, **I**=Gr. PreK-4. *Brothers and Sisters. Fiction. Witches. Halloween. Friendship. Self-Confidence. Family Relations.* An unexpected friendship helps, Wendy, the youngest witch in her family, outwit her two mean and powerful older sisters. From I Can Read Chapter Book Series.

FICTION (12)

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

Bat-Ami, Miriam. **Two Suns in the Sky.** Front Street/Cricket, 1999. 223 pp. ISBN: 0812629000. **R**=Gr.6-7, **I**=Gr.7-12. *World War I. Refugees. Historical Fiction. Friendship. Diversity. Multiculturalism. Holocaust Studies.* With alternating narratives of a 15-year-old naive, bored, Irish Catholic American girl and a street-smart Croatian Jewish boy, this story set in the Emergency Refugee Shelter in Oswego, NY, reveals community attitudes.

Cooney, Caroline. **Burning Up.** Delacorte, 1999. 230 pp. ISBN: 0385323182. **R**=Gr. 6-7, **I**=Gr. 7-11. *Racism. Fiction. Civil Rights Movement. Relationships.* When an African-American inner city girl is killed, a 15-year-old acquaintance from a wealthy Connecticut suburb turns a school project about a 1959 fire into an investigation of prejudice in her community then and now.

Cross, Gillian. **Tightrope.** Holiday House, 1999. 216 pp. ISBN: 0823415120. **R**=Gr. 6-7, **I**=Gr. 7-10. *Family Problems. Fiction. Gangs. Mystery and Detective Stories. Coping.* Ashley, the "perfect" daughter has a second persona as Cindy, the graffiti artist. No one knows until someone who is stalking her sees her in action and she turns to the local gang leader for help.

Curtis, Christopher. **Bud, Not Buddy.** Delacorte, 1999. 243 pp. ISBN: 0385323069. **R**=Gr. 5-6, **I**=Gr. 5-8. *African Americans. U.S. Depression. Fiction. Runaways. Survival. Parent-Child Relationships. Newbery Award.* Struggling to survive since his mother's death when he was six, a ten-year-old African American boy runs away from an abusive foster home and begins a quest to find his father. Compelling, humorous Newbery Award winner.

Eboch, Chris. **The Well of Sacrifice.** Clarion, 1999. 236 pp. ISBN: 0395903742. **R**=Gr. 5-6, **I**=Gr. 7-10. *Ancient Civilizations. Historical Fiction. Mayas. Loyalty. Self-reliance. Courage. Persistence. Leadership.* While gathering medicinal herbs for her mother, a ten-year-old ninth century Mayan girl deceives enemy warriors. When her brother defeats the enemy, the family's status rises, challenging the power of the high priest.

Erdrich, Louise. **The Birchbark House.** Il. by author. Hyperion, 1999. 244 pp. ISBN: 0786822414. **R**=Gr. 5-6, **I**=Gr. 4-9. *Ojibway Indians. Historical Fiction. Seasons. Native American and American History Studies.* Seven-year-old Omakayas describes the cycle of seasons and her daily life which tragically ends as Whites enter her tribe's Michigan island in 1847 and her entire family dies from smallpox.

Levitin, Sonia. **The Cure.** Harcourt/Silver Whistle, 1999. 181 pp. ISBN: 0152018271. **R**=Gr. 6-7, **I**=Gr. 8-A. *Anti-Semitism. Historical Fiction. Science Fiction. Middle Ages. Plague. Prejudice. Space and Time. Conformity.* To cure his love of music, the rulers in 2407 download a virtual reality experience into the brain of a 16-year-old. He becomes a Jewish boy in 1348 Salzburg, Germany, where his family is accused of causing the Black Plague.

Myers, Walter. **Monster.** Il. by Christopher Myers. HarperCollins, 1999. 281 pp. ISBN: 0060280786. **R**=Gr. 6-7, **I**=Gr. 8-12. *African Americans. Fiction. Prisons. Self-perception. Trials. Murder. Movie Script Format. Legal System. Ethics.* A 16-year-old boy is on trial as an accomplice in a drugstore hold-up turned homicide. He tries to come to terms with his life by turning

his thoughts about prison life and the trial into a movie script.

Namioka, Lensey. **Ties That Bind, Ties That Break.** Delacorte, 1999. 154 pp. ISBN: 0385326661. **R=Gr. 5-6, I=Gr. 7-12.** *China. Historical Fiction. Individuality. Sex Roles. Choices.* A young Chinese American wife recalls her childhood as the youngest daughter of an upper-class Chinese family at the beginning of the twentieth century when she defied feet-binding traditions, launching a new path for her life.

Randle, Kristen. **Breaking Rank.** Morrow, 1999. 201 pp. ISBN: 0688162436. **R=Gr. 6-7, I=Gr. 9-12.** *Gangs. Fiction. School Stories. Peer Pressure. Integrity. Teenage Sexual Relations. Abstinence. Morality.* A handsome, enigmatic member of a gang-like social club and his tutor develop a respectful, rare, and beautiful love that is misunderstood and challenged by most. Reminiscent of **Romeo and Juliet**.

Robertson, Bruce. **Marguerite Makes a Book.** Il. by Kathryn Hewitt. Getty Museum, 1999. 40 pp. ISBN: 089236372X. **R=Gr. 4-5, I=Gr. 4-7.** *Illumination of Books and Manuscripts. Historical Fiction (Paris, France). Medieval Studies. Art.* When her father, a famous manuscript illuminator in medieval Paris, cannot finish a book for an important client, Marguerite steps in and completes the manuscript on time.

Ryan, Pam. **Amelia and Eleanor Go for a Ride.** Il. by Brian Selznick. Scholastic, 1999. Unpaged. ISBN: 059096075X. **R=Gr. 4-5, I=Gr. K-5.** *Historical Fiction. Biographies. First Ladies. Flight. Adventures. Women's Issues.* Based on a true incident, this book tells of an evening in 1933 when Amelia Earhart, dining at the White House, invites First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt on a night flight over Washington, D.C.

STORY COLLECTION (1)

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

Cart, Michael. **Tomorrowland.** Scholastic, 1999. 198 pp. ISBN: 0590376780. **R=Gr. 5-6, I=Gr. 7-12.** *Science Fiction. Short Stories. Future. Issues.* Authors Cart, Giblin, Koertge, Lowry, Paterson, Philbrick, Scieszka, Seidler, Shurzynski, and Woodson present futuristic stories about love, hate, the environment, prisons, cults, disease, and the fate of the human race.

000 - GENERAL WORKS / COMPUTERS (1)

Morrison, Taylor. **Civil War Artist.** Il. by author. Houghton, 1999. 32 pp. ISBN: 0395914264. **R=Gr. 5-**

6, I=Gr. 4-8. *History. Illustrators. Journalism. Civil War. Change. Technology. Biography.* William Forbes is hired by a newspaper to document in sketches and then etchings the events of the Civil War.

100 - PHILOSOPHY AND PSYCHOLOGY (2)

Hausman, Bonnie. **A to Z, Do You Ever Feel Like Me?** Il. by photographs. Dutton, 1999. 32 pp. ISBN: 0525462163. **R=Gr. 2-3, I=Gr. PreK-2.** *Alphabet Books. Emotions. Empathy. Read Aloud. ELL.* Each letter in this pictorial alphabet book stands for an emotion, from angry to zany. Borders include objects beginning with the depicted letter. Includes a fill-in-the-blank story and a listing of emotions and related objects.

Krull, Kathleen. **They Saw the Future.** Atheneum, 1999. 108 pp. ISBN: 0689812957. **R=Gr. 5-6, I=Gr. 5-12.** *Prophecies. Prophets. History. Occultism. Independent Thinkers. Future.* Showcases the work of personalities who predicted the future including the oracles of ancient Greece, Leonardo da Vinci, Nostradamus, Jules Verne, Black Elk, H. G. Wells, Edgar Cayce, Jeane Dixon, and Marshall McLuhan.

200 - RELIGIONS (2)

Fisher, Leonard. **Gods and Goddesses of the Ancient Maya.** Il. by author. Holiday House, 1999. 33 pp. ISBN: 0823414272. **R=Gr. 4-5, I=Gr. 4-7.** *Mayan Indians. Religion. Ancient Central American Civilization.* The powers, gifts, and elements of the images of the twelve most important Mayan Gods are described. A brief introduction discusses the civilization's knowledge of mathematics, astronomy, building, and language.

Sonder, Ben. **Evolutionism and Creationism.** Il. by photographs. Watts, 1999. 112 pp. ISBN: 0531114163. **R=Gr. 5-6, I=Gr. 7-A.** *Creationism. Evolution.* Explores the complex, emotional issue of creationism versus evolution from the mid-19th century to the present. Covers the Scopes Trial, the publication of Darwin's work, the impact of Sputnik, and issues related to education.

300 - SOCIAL SCIENCES (7)

Bartoletti, Susan. **Kids on Strike!** Illustrated with archival drawings and photographs. Houghton, 1999. 208 pp. ISBN: 0395888921. **R=Gr. 6-7, I=Gr. 7-12.** *Child Employment. Strikes. 19th and 20th Century American History. Being Proactive.* Typical working conditions and treatment of children in mills, mines, factories, and fields are woven in this historical account of the child labor movement focusing on strikes in which child activists were in the forefront.

Bridges, Ruby. **Through My Eyes.** Il. by photographs. Scholastic, 1999. 63 pp. ISBN: 0590189239. **R**=Gr. 5-6, **I**=Gr. 4-A. *African Americans. Biography. Race Relations. School Integration. Women. American History. Courage. Faith. Conflict.* Ruby Bridges tells her views of 1960 events when as a six-year-old she became the only African American child to integrate one of New Orleans' elementary schools during the early days of the Civil Rights Movement.

Gaskins, Pearl. **What Are You?** Illustrated. Holt, 1999. 273 pp. ISBN: 0805059687. **R**=Gr. 7-8, **I**=Gr. 9-A. *Ethnicity. Race Relations. Identity.* Compelling and enlightening perspectives of over 40 young adults who share testimonials, essays, and poetry related to growing up "mixed" racially in the U. S. Includes websites, advocacy groups, books, videos, and index.

Geisert, Bonnie. **River Town.** Il. by Arthur Geisert. Houghton, 1999. 32 pp. ISBN: 0395908914. **R**=Gr. 4-5, **I**=Gr. 2-5. *Cities and Towns. Rivers. Interdependence. Community Life. Observation Skills. Life Cycle.* The annual cycle of life in a small river town reveals the ever-changing story about the seasons, river commerce, and on-going activities. Invites close observation of meticulous visual detail and spatial relationships.

Hoyt-Goldsmith, Diane. **Las Posadas.** Photographs by Lawrence Migdale. Holiday House, 1999. 32 pp. ISBN: 0823414493. **R**=Gr. 4-5, **I**=Gr. 3-7. *Christmas. Hispanic Americans. Posadas. Social Life and Customs. Photoessay.* The joyous nine-day celebration of Las Posadas in a small New Mexico community depicts the reenactment of Joseph and Mary's arrival in Bethlehem and their search for shelter.

Steir, Catherine. **If I Were President.** Il. by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan. Whitman, 1999. Unpaged. ISBN: 0807535419. **R**=Gr. 2-3, **I**=Gr. 2-5. *U.S. Presidency. Government. ELL.* With a slightly humorous tone, a young girl describes what her day would be like if she were president of the United States.

Tanaka, Shelley. **Secrets of the Mummies.** Illustrated. Hyperion/Madison, 1999. 48 pp. ISBN: 0786804734. **R**=Gr. 4-5, **I**=Gr. 4-10. *Ancient Egypt. Mummies. Ancient Death Rituals. Archaeology.* The ancient Egyptian practice of mummification is described and the mummies of Ramses II, Tutankhamen, a female musician, and a young male weaver reveal details of their societal status and ailments. I Was There Series.

398.2 - FOLKLORE (9)

Allen, Debbie. **Brothers of the Knight.** Il. and retold by Kadir Nelson. Dial, 1999. Unpaged. ISBN: 0803724888. **R**=Gr. 2-3, **I**=Gr. K-5. *African Americans. Folklore. Fairy Tales. German Folklore. Read Aloud. Jakob Grimm Stories.* This modern fable is a hip retelling of the "Twelve Dancing Princesses" in which an African American Reverend in Harlem endeavors to discover why the shoes of his twelve sons are worn to pieces every morning.

Beneduce, Ann Keay. **Jack and the Beanstalk.** Il. by Gennady Spirin. Philomel, 1999. 32 pp. ISBN: 0399231188. **R**=Gr. 4-5, **I**=Gr. 2-5. *Fairy Tales. English Folklore. Jack and the Beanstalk Stories.* A beautiful fairy tells curious Jack what happened to his father at the hands of the cruel giant, so Jack seeks retribution and justice.

Goldin, Barbara. **Journeys with Elijah.** Il. by Jerry Pinkney. Harcourt/Gulliver, 1999. 77 pp. ISBN: 0152004459. **R**=Gr. 5-6, **I**=Gr. 4-A. *Biblical Prophets. Legends. Jewish Folklore. Hope. Diversity.* Goldwin retells eight tales about the prophet Elijah who brings hope and miracles to those in need. Settings include Europe, Middle East, China, and South America in various time periods.

Hague, Michael. **Magical World of Unicorns.** Il. by author. Simon, 1999. Unpaged. ISBN: 0689828497. **R**=Gr. 3-4, **I**=Gr. 5-9. *Unicorns. Mythical Beasts. Pen-and-Watercolor Art.* Contains story excerpts, poems, and legends about the magical unicorn drawn from ancient, classical, and contemporary sources.

Opie, Iona (Ed). **Here Comes Mother Goose.** Il. by Rosemary Wells. Candlewick, 1999. 107 pp. ISBN: 0763606839. **R**=Gr. 3-4, **I**=Gr. PreK-4. *Nursery Rhymes. Listening and Oral Language Skills. Read Aloud. Mother Goose Rhymes. ELL.* A new collection of traditional Mother Goose nursery rhymes in four chapters with fanciful color illustrations.

Pinkney, Jerry. **The Ugly Duckling.** Il. by author. Morrow, 1999. Unpaged. ISBN: 0688159338. **R**=Gr. 4-5, **I**=Gr. 2-6. *Fairy Tales. Swans. Danish Folktale. Appearance. Peer Rejection. Self-Concept. Maturation. Hans Christian Andersen Stories.* An ugly duckling endures rejection, teasing, and loneliness until he discovers that he is a beautiful swan.

Poole, Amy. **How the Rooster Got His Crown.** Il. by author. Holiday House, 1999. Unpaged. ISBN:

0823413896. **R**=Gr. 3-4, **I**=Gr. 2-6. *Chinese Folklore. Pourquoi Tales. Day and Night. Problem-Solving.* A retelling of a Miao folktale from western China tells how the sun rewarded the rooster for his lovely crowing by presenting him with a crown, which now all roosters have.

Rosales, Melodye Benson. **Leola and the Honeybears.** Il. by author. Scholastic/Cartwheel, 1999. 37 pp. ISBN: 0590383582. **R**=Gr. 2-3, **I**=Gr. PreK-A. *Bears. Folklore. Read Aloud. Goldilocks and the Three Bears Stories.* This African American retelling has a large helping of rural Southern flavor and radiates warmth and love. Headstrong Leola wanders into the dark Pine Hollow Woods but wishes she had listened to her grandmother.

Tseng, Grace. **White Tiger, Blue Serpent.** Il. by Jean and Mou-Sien Tseng. Lothrop, 1999. Unpaged. ISBN: 0688125166. **R**=Gr. 5-6, **I**=Gr. 2-8. *Chinese Folklore (Drung Tribe in SW China). Fairy Tales. Ming Dynasty Art. Good Versus Evil.* Kai faces many perils, such as fighting off the white tiger and blue serpent, to get back from the greedy goddess Qin the beautiful silk brocade his mother wove.

400 - LANGUAGES (1)

Strumpf, Michael. **The Grammar Bible.** Knowledgeopolis, 1999. 597 pp. ISBN: 1891968009. **R**=Gr. 6-7, **I**=Gr. 7-A. *English Language. Grammar. Handbooks.* The creator of the National Grammar hotline presents a compendium of everything one might need to know on the topic including parts of speech, sentence structure, spelling, vocabulary, and punctuation.

500 - PURE SCIENCES (12)

Cowley, Joy. **Red-Eyed Tree Frog.** Photographs by Nic Bishop. Scholastic, 1999. Unpaged. ISBN: 0590871757. **R**=Gr. 2-3, **I**=Gr. PreK-3. *Amphibians. Frogs. Predators and Prey. Rainforest Animals. Art Appreciation. Photographic Essay.* Simple, readable text creates suspense and perfectly complements stunning close-up color photographs of this tiny amphibian of the Central American rainforest.

Dingus, Lowell. **The Tiniest Giants.** Il. by photographs. Random, 1999. 42 pp. ISBN: 0385326424. **R**=Gr. 5-6, **I**=Gr. 4-8. *Dinosaurs. Paleontology. Archaeology.* Paleontologists lead an expedition to the remote badlands of Patagonia in Argentina where they discover an enormous nesting ground containing thousands of fossilized dinosaur eggs, including embryos and fossil skin.

Dunphy, Madeleine. **Here Is the African Savanna.** Il. by Tom Leonard. Hyperion, 1999. Unpaged. ISBN: 078680162X. **R**=Gr. 3-4, **I**=Gr. K-3. *Grassland Ecology. Africa. African Animals. Savanna Habitat. Interdependence.* The African savanna is described cumulatively as it is populated with each native animal, starting with zebras, followed by lions, giraffes, baboons, impalas, tick birds, hippos, and elephants.

Jenkins, Martin. **The Emperor's Egg.** Il. by Jane Chapman. Candlewick, 1999. 29 pp. ISBN: 0763605573. **R**=Gr. 2-3, **I**=Gr. K-3. *Birds. Parental Behavior in Animals. Emperor Penguins. Reproduction. Antarctica.* Interesting facts about the Emperor penguin and the remarkable role of the male in the birth of the penguin chick create interest in this unusual species of bird.

Lessem, Don. **Dinosaurs to Dodos.** Il. by Jan Sovak. Scholastic/Reference, 1999. 112 pp. ISBN: 0590316842. **R**=Gr. 6-7, **I**=Gr. 4-A. *Extinction. Prehistoric Animals. Geologic Time Periods. Animal Adaptation.* Noted paleontologist describes the major historic events that resulted in the extinction of various species. Ideas are organized chronologically from the Precambrian Era, the most ancient, to Holocene Epoch.

Mason, Adrienne. **The World of the Spider.** Il. by photographs. Sierra Club, 1999. 116 pp. ISBN: 1578050448. **R**=Gr. 6-7, **I**=Gr. 7-A. *Invertebrates. Spiders. Classification. Predators and Prey. Habitats.* Explores the physical characteristics and behavior of spiders including their habitats, the role of spiders in myth and legend, and how spiders are used in scientific research.

McNulty, Faith. **How Whales Walked into the Sea.** Il. by Ted Rand. Scholastic, 1999. Unpaged. ISBN: 0590898302. **R**=Gr. 3-4, **I**=Gr. 1-7. *Marine Mammals. Whales. Evolution. Struggle to Survive.* Explains the theory of how a large land animal, living in the age of the dinosaurs, found it easier to survive in the sea and after thousands of years evolved into the whale.

Schmandt-Besserat, Denise. **The History of Counting.** Il. Michael Hays. Morrow, 1999. 45 pp. ISBN: 0688141196. **R**=Gr. 5-6, **I**=Gr. 5-8. *Counting. Numbers. History.* Traces the history of the development of counting in various cultures and clearly explains mathematical concepts of body counting, concrete numbers, abstract numbers, Roman numerals, and Arabic numerals.

Schnur, Steven. **Spring**. Il. by Leslie Evans. Clarion, 1999. Unpaged. ISBN: 0395822696. **R**=Gr. 3-4, **I**=Gr. K-5. *Acrostics. Seasons. Spring. Poetry. Animal Babies. Life Cycle. Creative Writing. Linoleum Block Print Art.* Acrostic poems take readers from spring's awakenings through to early summer.

Schwartz, David. **If You Hopped Like a Frog**. Il. by James Warhola. Scholastic, 1999. Unpaged. ISBN: 0590098578. **R**=Gr. 1-2, **I**=Gr. PreK-6. *Comparative Anatomy. Ratio and Proportion.* Thirteen whimsical vignettes compare a part of human anatomy to that of an animal. For example, if you ate like a shrew (three times its body weight daily), it would take hundreds of hamburgers to keep you going every day.

Seibert, Patricia. **Discovering El Nino**. Il. by Jan Ellis. Millbrook, 1999. 32 pp. ISBN: 0761312730. **R**=Gr. 2-3, **I**=Gr. 2-5. *El Nino. Weather. Global Weather Patterns and Effects.* Traces the weather pattern known as El Nino from its first observation by Peruvian fishermen to its connection with the men of India, studied by Sir Gilbert Walter, to its current monitoring by scientists.

Simon, Seymour. **Crocodiles and Alligators**. Photographs by author. HarperCollins, 1999. Unpaged. ISBN: 0060274743. **R**=Gr. 4-5, **I**=Gr. 4-8. *Alligators. Crocodiles. Reptiles. Predators. Life Cycle.* Describes the physical characteristics, behaviors, and life cycles of crocodilians, a group that includes crocodiles, caimans, alligators, and gharials.

600 - APPLIED SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (7)

Beil, Karen. **Fire in Their Eyes**. Il. by photographs. Harcourt, 1999. 64 pp. ISBN: 0152010432. **R**=Gr. 5-6, **I**=Gr. 8-12. *Fire Fighters. Forest Fires. Careers.* This exciting, informative book describes firefighters who fight wild fires in an easy-to-read, story-like narrative.

Couper, Heather. **DK Space Encyclopedia**. Illustrated. Dorling Kindersley, 1999. 304 pp. ISBN: 0789447088. **R**=Gr. 9-10, **I**=Gr. 7-A. *Astronomy. Encyclopedias. Space Travel. The Solar System. Telescopes. Stargazing.* This comprehensive guide to astronomy and space travel is lavishly illustrated and includes topics such as observing the universe, exploring space, the solar system, the stars, galaxies, the universe, and tips on stargazing.

Dyson, Marianne. **Space Station Science**. Illustrated. Scholastic/Reference, 1999. 128 pp. ISBN: 0590058894. **R**=Gr. 5-6, **I**=Gr. 7-12. *Astronautics. Space Stations. Careers. Experiments.* Describes space stations including their structure and conditions, living in a weightless

environment, working and doing experiments in space, and readjusting to earth's atmosphere.

Hall, Lindsey. **Anorexia Nervosa**. Gurze, 1999. 187 pp. ISBN: 0936077328. **R**=Gr.6-7, **I**=Gr.10-A. *Anorexia Nervosa. Self-Help. Recovery.* Straight-forward, empathetic guide for individuals motivated to understand and recover from anorexia nervosa. Provides answers to the most asked questions, empowering self-help techniques, and personal anecdotal material.

Jones, Charlotte. **Eat Your Words**. Il. by John O'Brien. Delacorte, 1999. 87 pp. ISBN: 0385325754. **R**=Gr. 4-5, **I**=Gr. 3-8. *Food. Terminology. English Language Terms and Phrases. Word Origins. Importance of Food in Society.* A collection of facts, speculations, and legends about the origins of food-related words and phrases. Includes food names, food-related trivia, some strange laws related to food, and a chronology of candy bars.

Levenson, George. **Pumpkin Circle**. Photographs by Shmuel Thaler. Tricycle, 1999. Unpaged. ISBN: 1582460043. **R**=Gr. 3-4, **I**=Gr. PreK-4. *Pumpkins. Gardening. Nature. Plants. Pollination. Halloween Customs. Life Cycle.* How a pumpkin grows, from seeds to plants to pumpkins ready to harvest, then made into jack-o-lanterns, and then to seeds again, is detailed in rhyming text and clear, close-up photography.

McKissack, Patricia and Frederick L. **Black Hands, White Sails: The Story of African-American Whalers**. Illustrated. Scholastic, 1999. 152 pp. ISBN: 0590483137. **R**=Gr. 6-7, **I**=Gr. 6-11. *African Americans. Biography. Whaling. American History. Sailors. Slavery. Whalers.* A thoroughly-researched history includes enterprising, courageous African American whalers from colonial times to the early twentieth century and information about whales, whaling, Quakers, abolitionists, mutinies, and more.

700 - ARTS (7)

Brooke, Michael. **The Concrete Wave**. Illustrated. Warwick, 1999. 200 pp. ISBN: 1894020545. **R**=Gr. 7-8, **I**=Gr. 8-A. *Skateboarding. History. Inventions. Businesses.* Chronicles the history of skateboarding from its invention to its manufacturing refinements and the people who have made this extreme sport popular.

Dalton, Stephen. **Secret Worlds**. Il. by photographs. Firefly, 1999. 159 pp. ISBN: 1552093840. **R**=Gr. 6-7, **I**=Gr. 9-12. *Nature Photography. Observation Skills. Learning About Animals, Birds, and Insects.* Exquisite, action-packed, color photographs placed chronologically

from 1970s to 1990s document Dalton's development as a nature photographer while he explains many of his techniques.

Fraze, Marla. **Hush, Little Baby: A Folksong with Pictures.** Il. by author. Harcourt/Browndeer, 1999. Unpaged. ISBN: 0152014292. **R=Gr. 1-2, I=Gr. PreK-2.** *Folk Songs. Lullabies. Babies. Rhymes. Pattern Books. Parenting. Siblings. Appalachia. Gifts.* A charming re-illustrated version of this traditional folk lullaby is based on illustrator's research in West Virginia Appalachian country. Includes the music at the end.

Macaulay, David. **Building the Book CATHEDRAL.** Il. by author. Houghton, 1999. 112 pp. ISBN: 0395921473. **R=Gr. 7-8, I=Gr. 7-A.** *Gothic Architecture. Cathedrals. Medieval History. Creative Writing. Drawing.* With the full content of Cathedral included, Macaulay commemorates the 25th anniversary of his first book with editorial comments recounting how he developed the manuscript from concept to finished drawings.

McKissack, Fredrick. **Black Hoops.** Il. with photographs. Scholastic, 1999. 154 pp. ISBN: 0590487124. **R=Gr. 5-6, I=Gr. 5-12.** *African American Athletes. Basketball History. Sports.* The role of African Americans, including women, in the history of basketball is chronicled from the early separate league to having the best team in the 1920s and 1930s and breaking the color barrier via the Harlem Globetrotters.

Swinburne, Stephen. **Guess Whose Shadow?** Photographs by author. Boyds Mills, 1999. Unpaged. ISBN: 1563977249. **R=Gr. 1-2, I=Gr. PreK-3.** *Shadow Pictures. Shadows. Observation Skills. ELL.* A photoessay about how light, especially sunlight, creates shadows. Points out that the biggest shadow on earth is called "night."

Varriale, Jim. **Take a Look Around.** Illustrated. Milbrook, 1999. 30 pp. ISBN: 076131265X. **R=Gr. 5-6, I=Gr. 5-8.** *Photography. The Creative Process.* A series of photography projects provides ideas and inspiration to explore photography concepts such as shadow and light, mood, composition, scale, sequence, and action. Pictures taken by children illustrate the possibilities.

800 - LITERATURE (7)

Dunbar, Paul. **Jump Back, Honey.** Il. by Jerry and Brian Pinkney, Faith Ringgold, and others. Jump at the Sun, 1999. Unpaged. ISBN: 0786824069. **R=Gr. 5-6, I=Gr. 4-9.** *African American Poetry. Art Appreciation.*

Author Studies. Read Aloud. Fourteen original rhyming poems, some including dialect, written by Paul Lawrence Dunbar who lived and wrote at the turn of the last century are illustrated by six award-winning illustrators.

Ganeri, Anita. **The Young Person's Guide to Shakespeare.** Illustrated. Harcourt, 1999. 55 pp. ISBN: 0152021019. **R=Gr. 5-6, I=Gr. 6-A.** *English Drama. Shakespeare. Elizabethan England. Actors. Acting. Drama.* Introduces young readers to the Bard of Avon with topics including who Shakespeare was, the Globe, and synopses of his plays. Includes famous passages, color photographs of performances, and a CD of readings.

Graham, Joan. **Flicker Flash.** Il. by Nancy Davis. Houghton, 1999. Unpaged. ISBN: 039590501X. **R=Gr. 3-4, I=Gr. PreK-6.** *American Poetry. Light. Shape Poems. Read Aloud.* A gathering of original shape poems about light looks at moonlight, spotlights, lighthouse beams, and more.

Michelson, Richard. **A Book of Flies.** Il. by Leonard Baskin. Marshall Cavendish, 1999. 56 pp. ISBN: 0761450505. **R=Gr. 5-6, I=Gr. 3-9.** *American Poetry. Flies. Insects.* An imaginative and factual view of thirteen insects depicts the "real scoop" of these creatures. Nine of them are real flies while the others are mistakenly called flies,

Moore, Clement. **The Night Before Christmas.** Il. by Bruce Whatley. HarperCollins, 1999. 32 pp. ISBN: 0060266082. **R=Gr. 2-3, I=Gr. PreK-6.** *Christmas. Poetry. Santa Claus.* Whatley's unusual perspectives and vivid color paintings draw readers into the magic of Moore's beloved rhyming tale describing a visit from Saint Nicholas.

Shertle, Alice. **A Lucky Thing.** Il. by Wendell Minor. Harcourt/Browndeer, 1999. Unpaged. ISBN: 0152005412. **R=Gr. 4-5, I=Gr. 5-A.** *American Poetry. Nature. Vivid Language Use. Read Aloud.* Framed between two poems that use the metaphor of building a barn for constructing a poem are twelve other poems of observations and reflections on nature, country life, and a writer's life.

Sones, Sonya. **Stop Pretending.** HarperCollins, 1999. 149 pp. ISBN: 0060283866. **R=Gr. 4-5, I=Gr. 9-A.** *Family Problems. Poetry. Mental Illness. Sisters. Emotions. Grief Process.* This collection of poems plunges the reader into a sea of powerful emotions (grief, anger, guilt, resentment, horror, acceptance) that a family ex-

periences when one of its members becomes mentally ill.

900 - GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY (9)

Calabro, Marian. **The Perilous Journey of the Donner Party.** Illustrated. Clarion, 1999. 192 pp. ISBN: 0395866103. **R=Gr. 5-6, I=Gr. 4-8.** *Donner Party (1846-1847). Overland Journeys to the Pacific (U.S.). Survival. Westward Movement. California History.* In 1846, Virginia Reed and her family joined a wagon train making the overland journey to California. Through a series of poor choices and terrible conditions, the Donner party was stranded in the Sierra Nevada snow.

Haskins, James. **The Geography of Hope.** Illustrated. Twenty-First Century, 1999. 137 pp. ISBN: 0761303235. **R=Gr. 7-8, I=Gr. 7-12.** *African Americans. 19th Century. Reconstruction. U.S. History.* This masterful book tells a largely-unknown story of African Americans in flight from their oppressors and searching for a better life. Includes excerpts from primary sources.

Jaskol, Julie. **City of Angels.** Il. by Kleven. Dutton, 1999. 47 pp. ISBN: 0525462147. **R=Gr. 5-6, I=Gr. PreK-8.** *Historic sites. Los Angeles. History. Diversity. City Life. California.* This book takes readers on a scenic tour of Los Angeles from the Central Library to the Watts Towers and the Museum of Tolerance.

Kimmel, Elizabeth. **Ice Story.** Il. by Frank Hurley. Clarion, 1999. 120 pp. ISBN: 0395915244. **R=Gr. 5-6, I=Gr. 6-A.** *Sir Ernest Henry Shackleton. Endurance (ship). Leadership. Creativity. Survival. Antarctica. Read Aloud.* In 1914 Shackleton and his crew hoped to be the first to traverse Antarctica on foot. Though their ship is trapped by ice, they overcome incredible challenges to their survival because of Shackleton's leadership skills and attitude.

Kuhn, Betsy. **Angels of Mercy.** Illustrated. Atheneum, 1999. 114 pp. ISBN: 0689820445. **R=Gr. 6-7, I=Gr. 7-A.** *Nurses. World War II. Army Nurse Corps. Personal Narratives. Women's History.* First-person reminiscences remind us that nearly 60,000 American women, including African American women, served as nurses during World War II through air raids, being taken prisoner, and coming under attack.

Marrin, Albert. **Terror of the Spanish Main.** Illustrated. Dutton, 1999. 240 pp. ISBN: 0525459421. **R=Gr. 6-7, I=Gr. 7-A.** *Caribbean Islands. Sir Henry Morgan. Pirates. 17th Century History.* Life on board ship, raids in search of plunder, and his final years as

lieutenant governor of Jamaica highlight the life of pirate Henry Morgan and provide insight into the exploits of 17th century buccaneers.

Maurer, Richard. **The Wild Colorado.** Illustrated. Crown, 1999. 120 pp. ISBN: 0517709465. **R=Gr. 5-6, I=Gr. 5-9.** *Colorado River. Exploration. Frederick Samuel Dellenbaugh. Grand Canyon (AZ). John Wesley Powell.* Fred Dellenbaugh was 17 years old when he joined John Wesley Powell's second journey down the Colorado River in 1872 and documented the trip with sketches and maps.

Miller, Marilyn. **Words that Built a Nation.** Illustrated. Scholastic/Reference, 1999. 172 pp. ISBN: 059029881X. **R=Gr. 7-8, I=Gr. 3-A.** *U.S. History. Sources. American History Research.* A collection of 39 documents tracing the history of the U.S. in the areas of human rights, environment, and immigration voice passionate plans and compelling speeches by Washington, Chavez, Stowe, H.R. Clinton, etc.

Opdyke, Irene. **In My Hands.** Il. by photographs. Knopf, 1999. 276 pp. ISBN: 0679891811. **R=Gr. 6-7, I=Gr. 7-A.** *World War II. Jews. Rescue. Poland. Holocaust.* A riveting account of Opdyke's harrowing saga as a 17-year-old in Poland. She is raped and captured by the Soviets, joins the Polish resistance, and saves 12 Jews by hiding them in the basement of a German major's villa.

920 - BIOGRAPHY - AUTOBIOGRAPHY (9)

Adams, Simon. **1000 Makers of the Millennium.** Illustrated. Dorling Kindersley, 1999. 256 pp. ISBN: 0789447096. **R=Gr. 7-8, I=Gr. 6-A.** *World History. Biography. Chronology of World History.* The men and women who shaped the last 1000 years, beginning with Brian Boru in the 11th century and ending with Louise Brown, a test tube baby in the 20th, are accessed by the extensive index and related to historical events.

Aliki. **William Shakespeare & The Globe.** Il. by author. HarperCollins, 1999. 48 pp. ISBN: 0060278218. **R=Gr. 5-6, I=Gr. 4-12.** *Globe Theatre. William Shakespeare. English History. English Language.* In acts and scenes, a fascinating history is told of William Shakespeare, the Elizabethan Era, the Globe Theatre, and the efforts by American thespian Sam Wanamaker to rebuild the Globe on its original site.

DePaola, Thomas. **26 Fairmount Avenue.** Il. by author. Putnam, 1999. 56 pp. ISBN: 039923246X. **R=Gr. 4-5, I=Gr. 3-7.** *American Authors. American Illustration.*

tors. *1930s. Italian and Irish Americans. Artist Studies. Newbery Honor.* An autobiographical chapter book relates incidents from Tomie DePaola's early life related to school, a hurricane, seeing the Disney movie Snow White, and building a new house.

Garner, Eleanor Ramrath. **Eleanor's Story.** Illustrated. Peachtree, 1999. 268 pp. ISBN: 1561451932. **R=Gr. 7-8, I=Gr. -12.** *World War II. Germany. Personal Narratives. Holocaust.* Powerful, poignant, and intimate memoir of an American girl's coming of age in World War II Germany where her father is offered a temporary job. They are trapped in Germany for the entire war, enduring untold hardships.

Matthews, Tom. **Always Inventing.** Illustrated. National Geographic Society, 1999. 64 pp. ISBN: 0792273915. **R=Gr. 6-7, I=Gr. 5-A.** *Alexander Graham Bell. Inventors. Biographies. Problem Solving. Deafness. Genius. 19th Century.* A photobiography of inventor Alexander Graham Bell describes his early days in Scotland, his invention of the telephone and many other devices, and his role as president of the National Geographic Society.

Ringgold, Faith. **If a Bus Could Talk.** Il. by author. Simon, 1999. Unpaged. ISBN: 0689818920. **R=Gr. 4-5, I=Gr. K-3.** *African Americans. Civil Rights. Rosa Parks. Segregation. Woman's Studies.* By accident on Rosa Parks' birthday, a little girl takes the bus on which Parks had refused to give up her seat for a white man. The bus tells her the story and explains about the civil rights movement and the Montgomery boycott.

Rubin, Susan. **Margaret Bourke-White: Her Pictures Were Her Life.** Illustrated. Abrams, 1999. 96 pp. ISBN: 0810943816. **R=Gr. 6-7, I=Gr. 7-A.** *Photographers. Biography. Women's Studies. 20th Century World History.* The professional accomplishments of the first woman to make a name for herself as a photojournalist are revealed in over 50 well-chosen photographs showing the evolution of her art and the assignments that brought her fame.

St. George, Judith. **In the Line of Fire.** Il. by photographs. Holiday House, 1999. 144 pp. ISBN: 0823414280. **R=Gr. 5-6, I=Gr. 5-12.** *Presidents. Assassination. American History.* Descriptions of the killing of four U.S. Presidents include the day's activities, the circumstances of the assassination, their assassins, and effects on the country. Also summarizes assassination attempts on 5 others.

Tallchief, Maria. **Tallchief.** Il. by Gary Kelley. Viking, 1999. 28 pp. ISBN: 0670887560. **R=Gr. 5-6, I=Gr. 3-8.** *Ballet Dancers. Indians of North America. Osage Indians. Women's Studies. Music. Goals. Determination. Beauty.* This biography reveals the early life of Maria Tallchief, a Native American-Scots-Irish ballerina whose family moved to Los Angeles in the 1930s when she was eight so she and her sister could seriously study classical ballet.



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