

Los Angeles' 100 best books: 2000



The Dragon Lode

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For the sixth 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 6,794 juvenile titles published in 2000 which are included on their **Focus on Books CD-ROM** software, Version 4, available in March 2002. Along with 34 searchable fields for nearly 50 thousand titles, this excellent resource categorically lists the IRA CL/R SIG **Notable Books for a Global Society**.

The annual **LA 100 Best Books** 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 2000:

- ✓ 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)
Child, Lauren. **I Will Never Not Ever Eat a Tomato.** Il. by author. Candlewick, 2000. Unpaged. ISBN: 0763611883. **R**=Gr. 2-3, **I**=Gr. PreK-3. *Brothers and Sisters. Food. Fiction. Risk Taking. Read Aloud.* Charlie uses psychology to help his sister overcome her resistance to many foods. Child’s stylized, cartoon-like drawings embedded with real objects aptly capture Lola’s negative reactions.

Collier, Bryan. **Uptown.** Il. by author. Holt, 2000. 28 pp. ISBN: 0805057218. **R**=Gr. 1-2, **I**=Gr. PreK-3. *African Americans. Harlem (New York, NY). Fiction. Read Aloud.* Discover the vibrant world of Harlem — from the legendary Apollo Theater to chocolate-colored brownstones, weekend shopping on 125th Street, and the music of Duke Ellington — as seen through the eyes of a child.

Falconer, Ian. **Olivia.** Il. by author. Atheneum, 2000. Unpaged. ISBN: 0689829531. **R**=Gr. 2-3, **I**=Gr. PreK-5. *Behavior. Pigs. Fiction. Caldecott Honor (2001). Child Development. Goals. Siblings. Parent-child Issues. Read Aloud.* Meet Olivia, an active, curious, and irrepressible young pig who is a memorable, multi-dimensional character. Funny and touching book with minimal, understated text enhanced with expressive illustrations.

Graham, Bob. **Max.** Il. by author. Candlewick, 2000. Unpaged. ISBN: 0763611387. **R**=Gr. 2-3, **I**=Gr. PreK-4. *Flight. Heroes. Fiction. Values. Family Life. Self Esteem.* Max, the young son of superheroes Captain Lightning and Madam Thunderbolt, seems unable to fly until he desperately wants to rescue a falling baby bird.

Locker, Thomas. **Cloud Dance.** Il. by author. Silver Whistle, 2000. Unpaged. ISBN: 0152022317. **R**=Gr. 2-3, **I**=Gr. K-12. *Clouds. Fiction. Photography. Creative Writing. Weather. Science. Poetry. Fine Art.* This picture book for all ages captures the majesty and wonder of the natural world, especially the sky, in different weather and times of day. Includes scientific information at the end.

Myers, Tim. **Basho and the Fox.** Il. by Oki S. Han. Marshall Cavendish, 2000. Unpaged. ISBN: 0761450688. **R**=Gr. 3-4, **I**=Gr. 3-6. *Foxes. Basho Matsuo (1644-1694). Poetry. Fiction. Feudal Japan. Haiku. The Creative Process. Fables.* The Japanese poet Basho encounters a fox who considers himself to be the greater poet. The rivalry intensifies in this fable as the proud Basho attempts to meet the fox’s challenge.

Ogburn, Jacqueline. **The Magic Nesting Doll.** Il. by Laurel Long. Dial, 2000. Unpaged. ISBN: 0803724144. **R**=Gr. 5-6, **I**=Gr. 4-10. *Dolls. Fairy Tales. Fiction. Good vs. Evil. Folktales (Russian style). Read Aloud.* Armed with only the magic nesting dolls her grandmother gave her before her death and a strong conviction to succeed, Katya lifts the wicked spell that has changed a prince and his kingdom to ice.

Oppel, Kenneth. **Peg and the Whale.** Il. by Terry Widener. Simon, 2000. Unpaged. ISBN: 0689824238. **R**=Gr. 2-3, **I**=Gr. K-3. *Fishing. Fiction. Tall Tales. Whales. Whaling. Courage. Optimism. Resourcefulness. Read Aloud.* Born at sea, Peg decides to become the world’s best fisherman when she is “pushing seven.” She hooks her prey, but the mate’s envy sends her on a whale of a ride that ends in her being swallowed whole.

Siebert, Diane. **Cave.** Il. by Wayne McLoughlin. HarperCollins, 2000. Unpaged. ISBN: 068816448X. **R**=Gr. 5-6, **I**=Gr. 2-8. *Caves. Fiction. Narrative Poetry. Changes. Language and Writing. Read Aloud. Life Cycle.* Told in first person, this narrative poem delineates the features, creatures, and

developmental stages of the formation of a limestone cave. The author's note commands man to protect and preserve these natural wonders.

Vizurraga, Susan. **Miss Opal's Auction**. Il. by Mark Graham. Holt, 2000. Unpaged. ISBN: 0805058915. **R**=Gr. 3-4, **I**=Gr. Pre K-5. *African Americans. Fiction. Auctions. Old Age. Life Cycle. Intergenerational Friendship. Memories. Changes. Read Aloud*. Young Annie watches as the auctioneers hold up items that trigger fond memories as Miss Opal's things are auctioned in preparation for her move to a retirement community in this tender book of friendship.

Wells, Rosemary. **Emily's First 100 Days of School**. Il. by author. Hyperion, 2000. Unpaged. ISBN: 0786824433. **R**=Gr. 3-4, **I**=Gr. PreK-2. *Animals. Counting. Rabbits. Schools. Fiction. Read Aloud*. A bunny participates in her first hundred days of school, investigating a different number each day. Teachers could read aloud one paragraph of this clever book for 100 days and hold their own celebration.

Winters, Kay. **Tiger Trail**. Il. by Laura Regan. Simon, 2000. Unpaged. ISBN: 0689823231. **R**=Gr. 3-4, **I**=Gr. Pre K-5. *Tigers. Fiction. Poetry. Descriptive Language. Life Cycles. Baby animals. Endangered Animals. Read Aloud*. A mother tiger describes raising her two kits and her otherwise solitary existence.

LARGE-PRINT, EARLY READER BOOKS (1)

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

Yolen, Jane. **How Do Dinosaurs Say Good Night?** Il. by Mark Teague. Blue Sky, 2000. Unpaged. ISBN: 0590316818. **R**=Gr. 1-2, **I**=Gr. PreK-2. *Bedtime. Behavior. Dinosaurs. Stories in Rhyme. Appropriate Bedtime Behavior. Read Aloud*. Yolen's delightfully humorous bedtime story is told as a series of rhyming questions about the bedtime behavior exhibited by dinosaur children.

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)

Yaccarino, Dan. **First Day on a Strange New Planet**. Il. by author. Hyperion, 2000. Unpaged. ISBN: 0786824999. **R**=Gr. 3-4, **I**=Gr. 2-5. *Life on*

Other Planets. Schools. Student Exchange. Fiction. Humor. Chapter Books. Science Fiction. Anachronisms. A boy from Earth travels to the planet Meep as an exchange student, and Blorp, an extraterrestrial, encounters his own challenges at school on earth. From **Blast Off Boy and Blorp** Series.

FICTION (12)

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

Anderson, Laurie. **Fever, 1793**. Simon, 2000. 251 pp. ISBN: 0689838581. **R**=Gr. 5-6, **I**=Gr. 5-10. *Epidemics. Pennsylvania. American History (1783-1809). Survival. Yellow Fever. Historical Fiction. Family Loyalty. Medical Practices*. When the horrible yellow fever epidemic breaks out and a widow running a coffee house becomes ill, she forces Matty, her 16-year-old daughter, to take her elderly grandfather out of the city to escape the infection.

Cousins, Steven. **Frankenbug**. Holiday House, 2000. 151 pp. ISBN: 0823414965. **R**=Gr. 3-4, **I**=Gr. 3-5. *Bullies. Human Relations. Insects. Schools. Science Fiction. Problem Solving. Friendship. Revenge*. Fifth grader Adam Cricklestein's best friends are bugs and the entomologist at the museum. When the school bully kills Adam's moon moth, he vows to create a monster bug to seek revenge.

DiCamillo, Kate. **Because of Winn-Dixie**. Candlewick, 2000. 182 pp. ISBN: 0763607762. **R**=Gr. 4-5, **I**=Gr. 3-6. *Dogs. Florida. Friendship. Fiction. Loneliness. Parent-child Relationships. Newbery Honor (2001)*. Ten-year-old Opal finds an orphaned dog when she and her father move to a new community. Named Winn-Dixie, the dog becomes a catalyst for helping Opal make friends and cope with her mother's having left her family.

Freymann-Weyr, Garret. **When I Was Older**. Houghton, 2000. 167 pp. ISBN: 0618055452. **R**=Gr. 5-6, **I**=Gr. 7-11. *Brothers and Sisters. Death. Fathers and Daughters. Divorce. Blended Families. Character Development. Anger*. Sophia is trying to cope with her younger brother's death, her anger with her divorced father, and her changing relationships with boys. The son of her mother's boyfriend helps her come to grips with all her issues.

Kerner, Charlotte. **Blueprint**. Lerner, 2000. 189 pp. ISBN: 0822500809. **R**=Gr. 7-8, **I**=Gr. 9-A. *Cloning. Mothers and Daughters. Musicians. Sci-*

ence Fiction. *Ethics. Identity. Value of the Arts.* An autobiographical treatise written from the viewpoint of 22-year-old Siri, a clone of her renowned concert pianist mother Iris who had Siri created when she was thirty and discovered she has multiple sclerosis.

Konigsburg, E. L. **Silent to the Bone.** Atheneum, 2000. 261 pp. ISBN: 0689836015. **R**=Gr. 5-6, **I**=Gr. 5-8. *Babysitters. Brothers and Sisters. Emotional Problems. Friendship. Mutism. Remarriage. Fiction. Blended Families. Communication. Truthfulness.* In this suspenseful story, 13-year-old Branwell is accused of shaking and dropping his baby half-sister who has slipped into a coma. Unable to utter a sound, his best friend is asked to find a way to communicate with him.

Plum-Ucci, Carol. **The Body of Christopher Creed.** Harcourt, 2000. 248 pp. ISBN: 0152023887. **R**=Gr. 7-8, **I**=Gr. 8-A. *Emotional Problems. Missing Persons. Peer Pressure. Schools. Fiction. Intolerance. Appearance vs. Reality. Parent-Child Relationships. Men and Society.* The perspective of Torey Adams, a student with a seemingly perfect life, is totally changed when the class misfit Chris Creed sends an e-mail message to the principal then mysteriously disappears.

Ryan, Pam. **Esperanza Rising.** Scholastic, 2000. 262 pp. ISBN: 0439120411. **R**=Gr. 4-5, **I**=Gr. 4-8. *Agricultural Laborers. California. Mexican Americans. Historical Fiction (1930s). American History. Adjustment.* After leaving a life of comfort and riches in Mexico, the Depression and Mama's chronic illness make Esperanza's challenge of accepting life as a migrant California farm laborer especially difficult.

Sturtevant, Katherine. **At the Sign of the Star.** Farrar, 2000. 140 pp. ISBN: 0374304491. **R**=Gr. 5-6, **I**=Gr. 4-8. *Great Britain. Historical Fiction (1660-1714). London, England. Gender Roles. Adjustment.* When her father remarries, Meg must adjust to the realization that she will not inherit his bookshop. She meets many British playwrights in the shop and begins dreaming instead of becoming a successful female playwright.

Tervalon, Jervey. **Dead Above Ground.** Pocket Books, 2000. 226 pp. ISBN: 0671034685. **R**=Gr. 12-A, **I**=Gr. 11-A. *African Americans. New Orleans, LA. Historical Fiction (1940s). Family Rela-*

tionships. Survival. Time and Place. Readers will be mesmerized by this saga of a young, feisty woman of Creole heritage who confronts the mysterious secrets of her strong-willed mother's past and struggles to preserve the future for those she loves.

Whelan, Gloria. **Homeless Bird.** HarperCollins, 2000. 261 pp. ISBN: 0060284528. **R**=Gr. 5-6, **I**=Gr. 7-12. *Courage. India. Fiction. Modern Indian Culture. Persistence, Hope. Women and Society. First-person Narrative. Figurative Language. Hindi Language. Literacy.* Thirteen-year-old Koly draws upon her ability to read and to create magnificent embroidery to overcome the hardships of widowhood after her young husband from an arranged marriage dies within months of the ceremony.

Woodson, Jacqueline. **Miracle's Boys.** Putnam, 2000. 133 pp. ISBN: 0399231137. **R**=Gr. 5-6, **I**=Gr. 7-A. *Brothers. Family Problems. Orphans. Fiction. Sibling Relationships.* Tells the realistic story of how the heroic death of their father and the death of their mother from diabetes-related health problems as well as other incidents and influences affected the struggles of three orphaned brothers.

STORY COLLECTION (1)

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

Myers, Walter. **145th Street: Short Stories.** Delacorte, 2000. 151 pp. ISBN: 0385321376. **R**=Gr. 5-6, **I**=Gr. 7-12. *African Americans. Harlem (New York, NY). Short Stories. Fiction. African American Community Life. Unique Neighborhoods. Relationships.* Ten stories featuring teens as well as community pillars living their lives as best they can in a block in Harlem celebrate the mundane, the special, the comical, and the tragic happenings in the neighborhood.

000 - GENERAL WORKS / COMPUTERS (1)

Masoff, Joy. **Oh, Yuck!: The Encyclopedia of Everything Nasty.** Il. by Terry Sirrell (photographs and cartoonish drawings). Workman, 2000. 212 pp. ISBN: 0761107711. **R**=Gr. 7-8, **I**=Gr. 7-A. *Curiosities and Wonders. Life Science. Science.* Highly-readable, alphabetical entries provide the scientific explanation behind truly nasty and disgusting things such as worms, shrunken heads, burping, body odors, dandruff, cannibals, vomit, eye gunk, mummies, and poop.

100 - PHILOSOPHY AND PSYCHOLOGY (1)

Katz, Jon. **Geeks: How Two Lost Boys Rode the Internet Out of Idaho.** Villard, 2000. 207 pp. ISBN: 037550298X. **R=Gr. 5-6, I=Gr. 7-A.** *Conformity. Individuality. Internet. Peer Pressure. School Environment. Diversity. Man and Technology.* Seeking acceptance and communication on the Internet, voices from computer geeks around the world blast current educational systems which turn away from nonconformists, allowing ridicule, harassment, and often torture.

200 - RELIGIONS (2)

Gerstein, Mardicai (Reteller). **Queen Esther the Morning Star.** Il. by reteller. Simon, 2000. Unpaged. ISBN: 0689813724. **R=Gr. 4-5, I=Gr. K-6.** *Bible. Esther, Queen of Persia. Purim. Women. Judaism. Holidays. Good and Evil. Persia.* Retelling the events of the Old Testament book of *Esther*. In ancient Persia two Jews, Esther the Queen and her cousin Mordecai, overcome the evil Haman who wants to kill all the Jews.

Jaffe, Nina. **Tales for the Seventh Day: A Collection of Sabbath Stories.** Il. by Kelly Stribling (black-and-white illustrations). Scholastic, 2000. 73 pp. ISBN: 0590120549. **R=Gr. 6-7, I=Gr. 5-10.** *Folklore. Jews. Sabbath. Holidays. Religions. Persia. Spain. Eritrea (East Africa).* Seven Sabbath stories from around the world describe different times such as creation and the days of King David. Introduction explains the Jewish Sabbath. Includes a glossary, a bibliography, and recommended reading.

300 - SOCIAL SCIENCES (9)

Alexander, Sally. **Do You Remember the Color Blue? And Other Questions Kids Ask About Blindness.** Il. with black and white photographs. Viking, 2000. 78 pp. ISBN: 0670880434. **R=Gr. 5-6, I=Gr. 4-9.** *Sally Hobart Alexander. Blindness. Physically Disabled. Questions and Answers. Adaptation.* Clearly and candidly answering thirteen questions that children consistently ask her, Alexander throws a new light on blindness and how a disability can effect a positive change in one's life.

Ammon, Richard. **Conestoga Wagons.** Il. by Bill Farnsworth (sun-drenched oils). Holiday House, 2000. Unpaged. ISBN: 0823414752. **R=Gr. 5-6, I=Gr. 4-8.** *Transportation. American History (1750-1850). Lancaster, PA. Invention. Technology. Westward Movement.* Informative and rather technical history, in picture book format, of

conestoga wagons built in Lancaster County, PA, that carried goods and people west and from place to place until railroads rendered them obsolete.

Coleman, Penny. **Girls: A History of Growing Up Female in America.** Il. with photographs and archival reproductions. Scholastic, 2000. 192 pp. ISBN: 0590371290. **R=Gr. 6-7, I=Gr. 7-A.** *Girls. American History. Diversity. Gender Roles. Primary Sources.* This chronological history of what it was like to grow up female in America includes a discussion of gender roles and is personalized through the use of primary sources including diaries, memoirs, letters, and magazine articles.

Fradin, Dennis. **Bound for the North-Star: True Stories of Fugitive Slaves.** Il. with black-and-white photographs and archival reproductions. Clarion, 2000. 206 pp. ISBN: 0395970172. **R=Gr. 6-7, I=Gr. 7-12.** *Abolitionists. Slavery. Underground Railroad. American History. African Americans. Diversity.* Well-documented, readable accounts of the courageous actions of Peter and Vina Still, Mary Prince, Eliza Harris, Henry Brown, Ellen and William Craft, Solomon Northrup, Harriet Tubman, etc. who escaped slavery.

Jackson, Ellen. **The Autumn Equinox: Celebrating the Harvest.** Il. by Jan Davey Ellis (paintings in earth colors). Millbrook, 2000. Unpaged. ISBN: 0761313540. **R=Gr. 4-5, I=Gr. 2-5.** *Autumn. Festivals. Holidays. Folklore. Customs and Traditions. Harvests. Seasons. Crafts. Recipes. History.* Readers get a global view of fall and harvest celebrations throughout history and across cultures. Explains what the fall equinox is and gives background on Halloween and Thanksgiving customs, Sukkot, Pongal in India, etc.

Kassinger, Ruth. **U. S. Census: A Mirror of America.** Il. with black-and-white photographs and diagrams. Raintree Steck-Vaughn, 2000. 80 pp. ISBN: 0739812173. **R=Gr. 5-6, I=Gr. 4-A.** *United States Census. American History. Civil Rights. American Depression. Immigration. Computer Technology. ELL.* A short history of the census in the U.S. including the procedures, the questions, the tallying of the statistics, the uses of the information, and its impact and reflection on American history and critical issues.

Rogers, Fred. **Extraordinary Friends.** Il. with color photographs. Putnam, 2000. Unpaged. ISBN:

0399231463. **R**=Gr. 3-4, **I**=Gr. PreK-3. *Disabled Children. Friendship. Acceptance. Diversity. Read Aloud.* Simple text opens discussion about physical disabilities and developing friendships with those who have them. Includes an introduction and depicts disabled children of various ethnicities. **Let's Talk About It** series.

Schanzer, Rosalyn. **Escaping to America: A True Story.** Il. by author. HarperCollins, 2000. Unpaged. ISBN: 0688169902. **R**=Gr. 4-5, **I**=Gr. 3-7. *Goodstein Family. Jews. Poland. Immigration and Emigration. American History. ELL. Read Aloud.* In simple language and beautiful detailed color illustrations, Schanzer recounts the story of her grandparents' immigration from war-torn, anti-Semitic Poland to the United States between 1918 and 1921.

Winick, Judd. **Pedro and Me: Friendship, Loss and What I Learned.** Il. by author. Holt, 2000. 187 pp. ISBN: 0805064036. **R**=Gr. 5-6, **I**=Gr. 7-12. *AIDS. Diseases. Graphic Books. Real World (TV Program). Pedro Zamora (1972-1994). Tolerance. Love. Courage.* This graphic book chronicles MTV's **Real World San Francisco** and the friendships that developed among the participants. Created as a tribute to Pedro Zamora, a Cuban American, gay, AIDS educator who was HIV positive.

398.2 - FOLKLORE (7)

Aesop. **Aesop's Fables; Selected and Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney.** Il. by Jerry Pinkney (watercolor). SeaStar, 2000. 87 pp. ISBN: 1587170000. **R**=Gr. 3-4, **I**=Gr. 3-A. *Fables. Folklore. Wisdom for Living.* Contains 60 fables told by Aesop over 2,600 years ago. Pinkney's splendid illustrations along with the book design make this a treasure to own and read.

Casanova, Mary. **The Hunter: A Chinese Folktale.** Il. by Ed Young (gouache and pastel with Chinese writing). Atheneum, 2000. Unpaged. ISBN: 068982906X. **R**=Gr. 3-4, **I**=Gr. K-5. *Folklore. China. Art. Trust.* A hunter for a village suffering from drought saves a life and is rewarded by learning the language of the animals. When his community is threatened again, he can save it only by revealing his secret and sacrificing himself.

Kimmel, Eric. **The Two Mountains: An Aztec Legend.** Il. by Leonard Everett Fisher. Holiday House, 2000. 30 pp. ISBN: 082341504X. **R**=Gr. 4-5, **I**=Gr. 3-7. *Aztecs. Legends. Indians of Mexico.*

Pourquoi Tales. Diversity Studies. Folklore Studies. The inquisitive son of the Aztec sun god falls in love with the daughter of the moon goddess when he disobeys his father. When the two lovers again disobey, they become mortal and at their deaths are transformed into mountains.

Olaleye, Isaac. **In the Rainfield, Who Is the Greatest?** Il. by Ann Grifalconi. Blue Sky, 2000. Unpaged. ISBN: 0590483633. **R**=Gr. 4-5, **I**=Gr. 2-A. *Folklore. Nigeria. Yoruba (African People). Read Aloud. Natural Elements. Contests. Art Techniques.* Quarreling as to who is the greatest, Wind, Fire, and Rain have a contest. When Wind and Fire become too destructive, Rain stops the destruction. They all agree that the gentlest is the greatest.

Osborne, Mary Pope. **Kate and the Beanstalk.** Il. by Giselle Potter (folk-art style). Atheneum, 2000. Unpaged. ISBN: 0689825501. **R**=Gr. 2-3, **I**=Gr. PreK-4. *Fairy Tales. Folklore. England. Giants. Jack and the Beanstalk Stories. Humor. Heroines. Book Design.* A plucky girl protagonist, full of ingenuity and confidence, outsmarts the giant and his wife, rescues three stolen treasures, and returns them to the rightful owner, who ironically turns out to be her mother.

San Souci, Robert (Reteller). **Little Gold Star: A Spanish American Cinderella Tale.** Il. by Sergio Martinez (watercolor). Morrow, 2000. Unpaged. ISBN: 068814781X. **R**=Gr. 3-4, **I**=Gr. 2-7. *Fairy Tales. Folklore. New Mexico. Cinderella Stories.* When Theresa's father remarries and the girl must become her stepmother's servant, the Blessed Mary intervenes, rewarding the girl's steadfast kindness.

Sierra, Judy. **The Gift of the Crocodile: A Cinderella Tale.** Il. by Reynold Ruffins. Simon, 2000. Unpaged. ISBN: 0689821883. **R**=Gr. 4-5, **I**=Gr. K-5. *Fairy Tales. Folklore. Indonesia. Cinderella Stories. Read Aloud. Storytelling. Kindness. Stepparents. Magical Transformations.* A magical mother crocodile helps Damura outwit her evil stepmother and win the prince's heart.

400 - LANGUAGES (1)

Barron, Rex (Illustrator). **Fed Up! A Feast of Frazzled Foods.** Edited by Victoria Wells. Il. with acrylic wash and colored pencil drawings. Putnam, 2000. Unpaged. ISBN: 0399234500. **R**=Gr. 3-4, **I**=Gr. 3-12. *Alphabet Books. Food. Humor. Nutri-*

tion. Alphabetically portrays a variety of vegetables and fruits, displaying various behaviors and attitudes. Factual information included in *Did you know?* section.

500 - PURE SCIENCES (11)

Allan, Jerry. **The Horse and the Iron Ball: A Journey Through Time, Space, and Technology.** Il. by author. Lerner, 2000. 48 pp. ISBN: 082252158X. **R**=Gr. 5-6, **I**=Gr. 5-9. *Cosmology. Universe. Astronomy. Life Cycle. Creation. Evolution.* Simply and beautifully, Allan captures the energy of an evolving universe by creating connections between the horse and the iron ball, the life cycles of stars, the creation of the 92 elements, and the beginnings of life.

Ballard, Robert. **The Eternal Darkness: A Personal History of Deep-Sea Exploration.** Il. with photographs. Princeton University Press, 2000. 388 pp. ISBN: 0691027404. **R**=Gr. 9-10, **I**=Gr. 9-A. *Underwater Exploration. History. Oceanography. Marine Science. Exploration.* This history focuses on 20th-century advances in deep-ocean exploration including submersibles, deep-ocean creatures and their ecosystems, vent communities, deep-water archaeology, and contributions of oceanographers.

Collard, Sneed. **Forest in the Clouds; by Sneed Collard.** Il. by Michael Rothman (paintings). Charlesbridge, 2000. Unpaged. ISBN: 088106985X. **R**=Gr. 3-4, **I**=Gr. 1-4. *Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve (Costa Rica). Rain Forest Ecology. Extinct Species. Camouflage. Nocturnal Animals. Predators and Prey.* Describes the habitat of the tropical cloud forest in Costa Rica, including its many plants, animals, and birds. Rich vocabulary, exquisite detailed paintings, glossary, map, further reading, and websites.

Day, Trevor. **Youch! It Bites: Real-Life Monsters Up Close.** Il. by photographs. Simon, 2000. Unpaged. ISBN: 0689834160. **R**=Gr. 4-5, **I**=Gr. 2-7. *Animals. Dangerous Animals. Humor.* Ten dangerous plants, animals, and insects are featured with exquisite photographs, catchy questions, and a description of the creature and how it harms humans. Also includes five animals with large teeth and a wound with eight possible culprits.

Isadora, Rachel. **123 POPI** Il. by author (Pop-art style). Viking, 2000. Unpaged. ISBN: 0670888591.

R=Wordless, **I**=Gr. K-5. *Counting. Wordless Books. Creative Writing.* The numbers from 1-20 and 500, 1,000, and 1,000,000 are presented with bold, colorful illustrations. Each number is pictured with a common association, such as *three* monkeys depicting "see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil."

London, Jonathan. **Panther: Shadow of the Swamp.** Il. by Paul Morin (oil paintings). Candlewick, 2000. Unpaged. ISBN: 156402623X. **R**=Gr. 3-4, **I**=Gr. K-5. *Endangered Species. Mammals. Mountain Lions. Wild Cats. Read Aloud. Habitats. Predators and Prey. Endangered Species.* Flowing through the Florida Swamps, a mother panther hunts for food. The language is rich with imagery and the oil paintings are spectacular. Includes factual information on this endangered species.

Michelson, Richard. **Ten Times Better.** Il. by Leonard Baskin (watercolors). Marshall Cavendish, 2000. 40 pp. ISBN: 076145070X. **R**=Gr. 4-5, **I**=Gr. PreK-5. *Animals. Counting. Multiplication. Read Aloud. Multiples. Point of View. Art.* A succession of animals explain in rhyme why their favorite number is better than the rest from 1 to 10 with multiples of 10 included. An artistic experience.

Pringle, Laurence. **Bats! Strange and Wonderful.** Il. by Meryl Henderson (vivid watercolors). Boyds Mills, 2000. 32 pp. ISBN: 1563973278. **R**=Gr. 3-4, **I**=Gr. PreK-4. *Bats. Mammals. Interrelatedness. Life Cycle.* A readable and informative introduction to the behaviors, life cycles, and physical characteristics of bats. Reinforces appreciation for this unique mammal and its place in the ecosystem.

Relf, Patricia. **A Dinosaur Named Sue: The Story of the Colossal Fossil: The World's Most Complete Rex.** Il. with photographs. Scholastic, 2000. 64 pp. ISBN: 0439099854. **R**=Gr. 6-7, **I**=Gr. 5-A. *Dinosaurs. Fossils. Paleontology. Tyrannosaurus Rex.* This book presents Sue, the most complete Tyrannosaurus Rex skeleton ever found. Describes the world during Sue's lifetime, the excavation, the 7-year legal dispute over ownership, and the restoration of the giant skeleton.

Singer, Marilyn. **On the Same Day in March: A Tour of the World's Weather.** Il. by Frane Lessac (folk-art style). HarperCollins, 2000. Unpaged. ISBN: 006028188X. **R**=Gr. 3-4, **I**=Gr. K-5. *Weather. World Geography. Cultures. Storms. Seasons. Diver-*

sity. Takes readers on a trip around the world and to the northern and southern hemispheres to look at the weather that people of various cultures are experiencing during the month of March.

Toft, Kim. **Neptune's Nursery.** Il. by author (silk paintings). Charlesbridge, 2000. Unpaged. ISBN: 1570913919. **R=Gr. 2-3, I=Gr. 1-5.** *Animal Babies. Marine Animals. Art Techniques. Observation Skills. Comparing/Contrasting. Camouflage. Seahorses.* A mysterious creature provides clues as to its identity as it describes, in poetry, the birthing habits of ten other animals. The exquisite silk paintings shimmer with the wonders of the sea.

600 - APPLIED SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (8)

Azarian, Mary. **A Gardener's Alphabet.** Il. by author (woodcuts). Houghton, 2000. Unpaged. ISBN: 0618033807. **R=Gr. K-1, I=Gr. PreK-1.** *Alphabet Books. Gardening. Vocabulary Development. Plant Life. ELL.* Caldecott Medalist expresses her love of gardening in this ABC book of bold, bright detailed woodcuts that develop the single word on each page into a concept.

Brynne, Faith. **101 Questions About Your Immune System You Felt Defenseless to Answer... Until Now.** Il. by Sharon Lane Holm (black and white illustrations). Twenty-First Century, 2000. 176 pp. ISBN: 0761315691. **R=Gr. 6-7, I=Gr. 7-12.** *Allergies. Immune System. Questions and Answers. Vaccines. Life Science. Health.* A collection of information about the immune system including infectious diseases, allergies, autoimmune diseases, transplants, and vaccines. Contains illustrations, notes, glossary, further information including websites, and index.

Friedlander, Mark P. **Outbreak: Disease Detectives at Work.** Il. by Leonard T. Kurland (photographs and drawings). Lerner, 2000. 120 pp. ISBN: 0822528606 **R=Gr. 8-9, I=Gr. 7-12.** *Diseases. Epidemics. Health. History.* Presents the study of diseases, including microbes, the great plagues of history, malaria, influenza, diphtheria, Legionnaire's disease, Ebola, Muerto Canyon virus, AIDS, and how to prevent future widespread medical diseases.

Keller, Laurie. **Open Wide: Tooth School Inside.** Il. by author (quirky color paintings). Holt, 2000. 32 pp. ISBN: 0805061924. **R=Gr. 4-5, I=Gr. 2-7.** *Dental Care. Dentistry. Teeth Care. Oral Hygiene. Health. Figurative Language. Humor. Com-*

bines school culture and tooth care as 32 teeth sit at desks in the wide mouth of Dr. Flossman's classroom. Oral hygiene information is interspersed with puns, wordplay, history, and silly humor.

Majoer, Mireille. **Inside the Hindenburg.** Il. by Ken Marshall, Laurie McGaw, and Donna Gordon (cross-section artwork, photographs, and illustrations). Madison, 2000. 32 pp. ISBN: 031612362. **R=Gr. 6-7, I=Gr. 6-A.** *Aircraft. Accidents. Airships. Hindenburg (Airship). Disasters. Transportation.* This oversize cross-section book provides an Il. history of the construction, engineering, luxurious passenger quarters, officer and crew messes, and the flaming crash on May 6, 1937, of the *Hindenburg.*

Markel, Michelle. **Cornhusk, Silk, and Wishbones: A Book of Dolls from Around the World.** Il. with color photographs. Houghton, 2000. 48 pp. ISBN: 0618054871. **R=Gr. 3-4, I=Gr. 3-7.** *Alphabet Books. Dolls. Play. Diversity. Art.* Portrays 26 types of dolls from around the world, discussing how they are made and used and how they reflect their culture. Also excellent for generating art activities.

Simon, Seymour. **Out of Sight: Pictures of Hidden Worlds.** Il. by photographs (computer-enhanced micro-photography). SeaStar, 2000. Unpaged. ISBN: 1587170124. **R=Gr. 4-5, I=Gr. 4-8.** *Microforms. Microphotography. Photography. Space Medical Technologies. Scientists' Tools.* With riveting images, introduces readers to hidden worlds of nature, space, and life on earth revealed by devices that magnify. Includes thermograms, MRI scans, satellite photographs, and more.

Thimmesh, Catherine. **Girls Think of Everything: Stories of Ingenious Inventions by Women.** Il. by Melissa Sweet (photographs of whimsical mixed media collages). Houghton, 2000. 57 pp. ISBN: 0395937442. **R=Gr. 6-7, I=Gr. 5-9.** *Inventions. Inventors. Biography. Women.* This title focuses on women whose ingenious inventions have made our lives simpler and better. Includes a chronology of women inventors and inventions on the end pages, information on the patent process, further reading, sources, and the index.

700 - ARTS (7)

Agee, Jon. **Elvis Lives: And Other Anagrams.** Il. by author (black-and-white drawings). Farrar,

2000. 76 pp. ISBN: 0374321272. **R**=Gr. 5-6, **I**=Gr. 5-A. *Anagrams. Word Games. Creative Thinking.* This collection of English language anagrams provides an abundance of humor as well as a springboard to creative thinking. Children and adults alike will enjoy this play on terminology through hilarious drawings.

Bachrach, Susan. **The Nazi Olympics: Berlin 1936.** Il. with photographs. Little, 2000. 128 pp. ISBN: 0316070866. **R**=Gr. 7-8, **I**=Gr. 7-A. *Olympic Games. Berlin (Germany). Propaganda. The Holocaust.* The rise of anti-Semitic Nazism is deftly woven together with Olympic community politics, the boycott debates, the German attempt to exploit the games for propaganda purposes, and the fate of many of the Jewish athletes.

Gould, Roberta. **Kidtopia: Round the Country and Back Through Time in 60 Projects.** Il. with photographs and line illustrations. Tricycle, 2000. 152 pp. ISBN: 1582460264. **R**=Gr. 4-5, **I**=Gr. 3-A. *Creative Activities. Handicraft. U.S. History. Social Studies Projects.* Step-by-step directions for 60 regionally organized handicrafts based on Colonial America, North Country pioneer life, southern Country roots, California gold rush, American Southwest, Pacific Rim, and Hollywood, CA.

Greenberg, Jan and Sandra Jordan. **Frank O. Gehry: Outside In.** Il. with color photographs and Gehry's sketches. DK Ink, 2000. 47 pp. ISBN: 789426773. **R**=Gr. 5-6, **I**=Gr. 5-12. *Architecture, Modern. Frank O. Gehry. Challenges Inherent in the Creative Process. Relationships.* Well-written text provides background on Los Angeles-based architect, including his childhood, search for a distinctive style, and his chaotic vision of life. Includes quotations and a list of buildings to visit.

Hoberman, Mary. **The Eensy Weensy Spider.** Il. by Nadine Bernard Westcott (watercolors). Little, 2000. Unpaged. ISBN: 0316363308. **R**=Gr. 2-3, **I**=Gr. PreK-4. *Children's Songs. Spiders. Creative Writing. Music. Humor.* Hoberman cleverly chronicles in song and rhyme the further adventures of the eensy weensy spider during one day. Includes music and hand motions.

Macaulay, David. **Building Big.** Il. by author (descriptive color drawings). Houghton, 2000. 192 pp. ISBN: 0395963311. **R**=Gr. 5-6, **I**=Gr. 5-12. *Ar-*

chitecture. Heavy Construction. Problem Solving. Goal Setting. Engineering. This companion volume to the PBS series by the same name focuses on the process of building bridges, tunnels, dams, domes, and skyscrapers. Illuminates solving design problems encountered and the importance of goals.

McGill, Alice (Collector). **In the Hollow of Your Hand: Slave Lullabies.** Il. by Michael Cummings (mixed media collages). Houghton, 2000. Unpaged. ISBN: 0395857554. **R**=Gr. 3-4, **I**=Gr. K-5. *African American Music. Lullabies. Slavery. American History. Music (CD included).* A compilation of 13 lullabies sung by African Americans to their children at the end of the slavery period encourages admiration for people who did not run away but stayed where they were to build families and culture.

800 - LITERATURE (6)

Adoff, Arnold. **The Basket Counts.** Il. by Michael Weaver (soft gouache paintings). Simon, 2000. 46 pp. ISBN: 0689801084. **R**=Gr. 3-4, **I**=Gr. 4-9. *American Poetry. Basketball. Sports.* A collection of original poems about the joy and feel of playing basketball. Unusual spacing of words in free verse adds interest and captures the motion, sensory, and emotional appeal of the game.

Florian, Douglas. **Mammalabilia: Poems and Paintings.** Il. by author (watercolor). Harcourt, 2000. 47 pp. ISBN: 0739821997. **R**=Gr. 3-4, **I**=Gr. PreK-8. *American Poetry. Mammals. Read Aloud. Animals. Diversity. Creativity. Humor.* Florian plays with spellings, rhymes, and a variety of poetic forms in 21 poems. A large framed painting with unschooled freshness perfectly accompanies each poem. A companion book to Florian's **Insectopedia.**

Glenn, Mel. **Split Image: A Story in Poems.** HarperCollins, 2000. 159 pp. ISBN: 0688162495. **R**=Gr. 5-6, **I**=Gr. 9-A. *American Poetry. Chinese Americans. High Schools. Suicide. Teenagers. Identity. Self Image.* Torn between a school identity of being the most popular girl and the private one, suffocating in a home life from which there seems to be no escape, the intriguing life of a Chinese American teenager is told in a series of poems.

Hopkins, Lee. **My America: A Poetry Atlas of the United States.** Il. by Stephen Alcorn (cubism/impressionism style). Simon, 2000. 83 pp.

ISBN: 0689812477. **R=Gr. 4-5, I=Gr. 3-8.** *American Poetry. Poetry Collections. U. S. Geography.* An anthology of poems about the different geographical area of the U.S. Each section begins with a regional map of the states and boxed information about each one.

Johnson, Dave (Ed.). **Movin': Teen Poets Take Voice.** Il. by Chris Raschka (free-form drawings). Orchard, 2000. 52 pp. ISBN: 053130258X **R=Gr. 5-6, I=Gr. 7-A.** *American Poetry. Teenagers. Teenagers' Writings. Creative Writing. Poetry Reading.* An outgrowth of a joint project between the New York Public Library and Poets House, these poems by young adult writers speak to the intended audience on a wide range of topics from eyebrows to coping with death.

Wong, Janet. **Night Garden: Poems from the World of Dreams.** Il. by Julie Paschkis (paintings). McElderry, 2000. 28 pp. ISBN: 0689826176. **R=Gr. 4-5, I=Gr. 2-6.** *American Poetry. Dreams. Sleep. Art Appreciation. Imagination.* Each double page features an original poem on the right and a color painting on the left, both surrounded by fanciful borders. Topics are common dream experiences including flying, nightmares, and dog dreams.

900 - GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY (12)

Armstrong, Jennifer. **Spirit of Endurance.** Il. by William Maughan (illustrations) and Frank Hurley (original expedition photographs). Crown, 2000. 32 pp. ISBN: 0517800926. **R=Gr. 4-5, I=Gr. 4-8.** *Antarctica. Exploration. Endurance (Ship). Sir Ernest Henry Shackleton (1874-1922). Read Aloud. Leadership. Persistence. Courage. Creativity. Survival.* In 1914 Shackleton led the first expedition to traverse the Antarctic. When his ship became trapped in the ice, his goal became rescuing his crew of 20 and bringing them safely home. Includes timeline, resource guide, and index.

Cooper, Michael. **Fighting for Honor: Japanese Americans and World War II.** Il. with black-and-white photographs. Clarion, 2000. 118 pp. ISBN: 395913756. **R=Gr. 4-5, I=Gr. 7-12.** *Japanese Americans. Evacuation and Relocation. World War II. Internment Camps. American History. Prejudice. Honor. Courage.* At a time when racism and prejudice created an atmosphere of hate and suspicion, honor and courage prompted Japanese Americans to demonstrate their loyalty to a government that betrayed them by denying their freedom.

Curlee, Lynn. **Liberty.** Il. by author (acrylics). Atheneum, 2000. 41 pp. ISBN: 0689828233. **R=Gr. 4-5, I=Gr. 3-8.** *Frederic Auguste Bartholdi (1834-1904). Statue of Liberty (New York, NY). Politics. Engineering. Art. U.S. History.* Majestically presents the origin, construction, installation, restoration, and meaning of the Statue of Liberty, the famous metal monument to freedom created by Bartholdi and engineered by Eiffel. Hunt designed the base.

Freedman, Russell. **Give Me Liberty: The Story of the Declaration of Independence.** Il. by painting reproductions. Holiday House, 2000. 90 pp. ISBN: 0823414485. **R=Gr. 6-7, I=Gr. 5-8.** *Declaration of Independence (Document). U. S. History (1600-1783). Colonial Period. American Revolution.* This well-written summary begins with the Boston Tea Party and culminates with the signing of this bold political statement about freedom and human rights. Provides reasons for colonial discontent, the major players, and the roles of common folk through excerpts, verse, and letters.

Lanier, Shannon. **Jefferson's Children: The Story of One American Family.** Il. by photographs, family trees, map. Random, 2000. 144 pp. ISBN: 0375905979. **R=Gr. 6-7, I=Gr. 7-A.** *Sally Hemings Family. Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826). U.S. Presidents. Genealogy. Prejudice.* Descendants of Jefferson's African American and White family lines are introduced through reminiscences about family members and their feelings about their shared heritage in format resembling a family photograph album.

Levine, Ellen. **Darkness Over Denmark: The Danish Resistance and the Rescue of the Jews.** Il. with black-and-white photographs. Holiday House, 2000. 164 pp. ISBN: 0823414477. **R=Gr. 5-6, I=Gr. 7-12.** *Jewish Holocaust (1939-1945). Denmark. Jews. Persecution. World War II.* The evolution of the Danish resistance from the slow tightening of the Nazi grip, the protection of prisoners of war and the Jews, the rescue of the Danish Jews, and sabotage against the German occupiers is told by 21 Danes.

Rubin, Susan. **Fireflies in the Dark: The Story of Friedl Dicker-Brandeis and the Children of Terezin.** Il. by art reproductions. Holiday House, 2000. 47 pp. ISBN: 0823414612. **R=Gr. 6-7, I=Gr. 6-A.** *Czech Artists. Children's Art. Friedl Dicker-Brandeis (1899-1944). Jewish Holocaust*

(1939-1945). *Czechoslovakia. Theresienstadt (Concentration Camp). Women Artists. Courage. Healing Power of Art.* Forced to enter Terezin Concentration Camp, Dicker-Brandeis packed art supplies and devoted herself to engaging the children there in art activities to help them cope with their losses and fears.

St. George, Judith. **So You Want to Be President?** Il. by David Small (humorous, detailed drawings). Philomel, 2000. 52 pp. ISBN: 0399234071. **R=Gr. 2-3, I=Gr. 1-8.** *Presidents. United States History. Humor. Comparison/Contrast. Caldecott Award (2001).* Compares and contrasts qualities about the 41 U.S. presidents and their duties, interests, practices, etc. Humorous, detailed illustrations feature a variety of presidents (with their identities) on every page.

Stanley, Jerry. **Hurry Freedom: African Americans in Gold Rush California.** Il. with black-and-white photographs and archival work. Crown, 2000. 85 pp. ISBN: 0517800969. **R=Gr. 6-7, I=Gr. 7-A.** *African Americans. Biography. California History. Gold Mining. Slavery. Abolitionists. Underground Railroad. Gold Rush.* This engaging history describes appalling race relations and the unjust laws and conditions under which African Americans worked in California during the Gold Rush and Civil War and profiles efforts to lobby for civil rights.

Stolley, Richard. **Life: Our Century in Pictures for Young People.** Il. by photographs. Little, 2000. 223 pp. ISBN: 0316815896. **R=Gr. 6-7, I=Gr. 7-A.** *Civilization. Twentieth Century. World History. Change. Cause and Effect. Photoessay.* Nine reflective essays by notable children's authors accompany 400 exquisite photographs. Each section includes a major news event, what it meant to the rest of the century, and photographs of people who died during that period.

Talbott, Hudson. **Forging Freedom: A True Story of Heroism During the Holocaust.** Il. by author. Putnam, 2000. 64 pp. ISBN: 0399234349. **R=Gr. 5-6, I=Gr. 4-9.** *Jewish Holocaust (1933-1945). Netherlands. Jaap Penraat (Biography). World War II. Jews. Rescue. Bravery.* Jaap Penraat daringly disguised over 400 Jews as construction workers when the Nazis overran the Netherlands in 1940 and forged documents to help them escape through the French underground to Spain.

Winnick, Karen. **Sybil's Night Ride.** Il. by author (colorful paintings). Boyds Mills, 2000. Unpaged. ISBN: 1563976978. **R=Gr. 3-4, I=Gr. 1-5.** *Sybil Ludington (1761-1839). U.S. History (1775-1783). American Revolution. Courage. Biography. Women's Studies.* On a stormy night in 1777, Sybil Ludington rode her horse through the dark from farmhouse to farmhouse shouting, "Muster at Ludingtons." The colorful paintings and map enrich the mood of the spirited text.

920 - BIOGRAPHY - AUTOBIOGRAPHY (8)
Aronson, Marc. **Sir Walter Raleigh and the Quest for El Dorado.** Il. with archival reproductions. Clarion, 2000. 222 pp. ISBN: 039584827X. **R=Gr. 6-7, I=Gr. 7-A.** *Explorers. Great Britain. Biography. Walter Raleigh (1552-1618). World History. Life of a Complex Personality.* A fascinating, well-researched account with archival maps and prints examines the life and times of Sir Walter Raleigh, interspersing a chronological account of his life with the changes taking place in Europe.

Borden, Louise. **Fly High: The Story of Bessie Coleman.** Il. by Teresa Flavin (gouache on colored paper). McElderry, 2000. Unpaged. ISBN: 0689824572. **R=Gr. 4-5, I=Gr. 4-8.** *African Americans. Air Pilots. Bessie Coleman (1896-1926). Women's Studies. American History. Black History. Achievement.* A wonderful biography of the first African American to earn a pilot's license. From Bessie Coleman's difficult childhood to her grand achievements in aviation, her personality and determination shine.

Coulter, Laurie. **When John and Caroline Lived in the White House.** Il. by photographs. Hyperion, 2000. 62 pp. ISBN: 0786806249. **R=Gr. 5-6, I=Gr. 3-A.** *Jacqueline Lee Bouvier Kennedy (1929-1994). John F. Kennedy (1917-1963). U.S. Presidents. Biography. White House (Washington, D.C.). American History.* Chronicles the thousand days Caroline and John Kennedy, Jr. lived in the White House. Previously unpublished color photographs accompany information about their lives. World events, such as the Cold War, appear in boxes.

Landau, Elaine. **John F. Kennedy, Jr.** Il. with black-and-white photographs. Twenty-First Century, 2000. 128 pp. ISBN: 0761318577. **R=Gr. 5-6, I=Gr. 5-12.** *Children of Presidents. Biography. John F. Kennedy (1960-1999). 20th Century History. "Idols."* Beginning with the tragic fatal plane

crash, Landau chronicles the life of the son of the 35th president, focusing on his unique winning, unpretentious personality and his mother's desire for as normal a life as possible for her children.

Marcus, Leonard. **Author Talk: Conversations with Judy Blume, Bruce Brooks, and Others.** Il. by photographs. Simon, 2000. 103 pp. ISBN: 068981383X. **R**=Gr. 5-6, **I**=Gr. 4-A. *American Authors. Biography. Authorship. Interviewing. Autobiographies. Careers. The Writing Process.* Marcus interviews 15 notable authors for children and young adults including Judy Blume, Louis Lowry, and Gary Paulsen. Each entry features the same questions, a current and childhood photograph, a bibliography, and more.

Pinkney, Andrea. **Let It Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters.** Il. by Stephen Alcorn (creative color portraits). Gulliver, 2000. 107 pp. ISBN: 015201005X. **R**=Gr. 5-6, **I**=Gr. 5-12. *African American Women. Biography. Civil Rights. U. S. History. Race Relations. Women's Studies. Diversity. Sojourner Truth. Biddy Mason. Harriet Tubman. Ida Wells-Barnett. Mary McLeod Bethune. Ella Baker. Dorothy Height. Rosa Parks. Fannie Lou Hamer. Shirley Chisholm.* Ten African American women activists and role models, whose actions and beliefs made a difference, are featured in this well-written collective biography.

Rumford, James. **Seeker of Knowledge: The Man Who Deciphered Egyptian Hieroglyphs.** Il. by author (watercolors). Houghton, 2000. 32 pp. ISBN: 039597934X. **R**=Gr. 4-5, **I**=Gr. 3-8. *Jean-Francois Champollion (1790-1832). Biography. Egyptologists. Study of Language. Ancient History. The Rosetta Stone. Hieroglyphics.* Jean-Francois Champollion's determination made him the first to decipher hieroglyphic writing. Watercolors and fas-

cinating margin notes revealing the meanings of certain symbols enhance the text.

Stanley, Diane. **Michelangelo.** Il. by author (illustrations combined with computer reproductions of Michelangelo's work). HarperCollins, 2000. Unpaged. ISBN: 0688150861. **R**=Gr. 6-7, **I**=Gr. 5-A. *Italian Artists. Biography. Buonarroti Michelangelo (1475-1564). Art History. World History. Italian Renaissance.* Information-rich text reveals the life and achievements of artist Michelangelo during the flowering of the Italian Renaissance with full-page illustrations focusing on the artist's works including the Sistine Chapel and the Pieta.

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