

Book Reviews for Elementary

School Librarians' Day

March 26, 2011

presented by Sally Snyder
Nebraska Library Commission



Picture Books

Ada, Alma Flor & F. Isabel Campoy ***TEN LITTLE PUPPIES / DIEZ PERRITOS***

Illus. by Ulises Wensell unpub. HarperCollins 2011 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-06-147043-1

As it says on the front cover, this book is “adapted from a traditional nursery rhyme in Spanish.” Enjoyable fun as the girl counts ten puppies down to one. Includes both English and Spanish versions. The music is given at the back of the book, along with a short paragraph of information on each of the dog breeds used in the book.

Brett, Jan ***THE 3 LITTLE DASSIES***

Unpub. Putnam 2010 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-399-25499-4

A retelling of the Three Little Pigs, set in Southern Africa. Dassies are also called rock hyraxes. In this version, the eagle is the predator they must outwit. Great fun and wonderful illustrations.

Brown, Tameka Fryer ***AROUND OUR WAY ON NEIGHBORS' S DAY***

Illus. by Charlotte Riley-Webb unpub. Abrams 2010 \$16.95 ISBN 978-0-8109-8971-9

A summer day spent celebrating companionship through the neighborhood block party. The vivid colors and action portrayed provide a sense of activity and belonging.

Dorros, Arthur ***MAMÁ AND ME***

Illus. by Rudy Gutierrez unpub. HarperCollins 2011 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-06-058160-2

A follow-up to his 2008 title, *Papá and Me*, this title celebrates mothers and daughters. Spanish words and phrases are woven into the story, and are understood by the context. Another good purchase for your library.

Emberley, Rebecca & Ed ***IF YOU'RE A MONSTER AND YOU KNOW IT***

Unpub. Scholastic 2010 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-545-21829-0

You can download the song for free (if you bought the book) or have the kids sing it with you as you read. The monsters will: snort & growl, smack your claws, and more! Sure to be a noisy story time!

Foreman, Michael ***FORTUNATELY, UNFORTUNATELY***

Unp. Anderson Press 2011 \$16.95 ISBN 978-0-7613-7460-2

A series of events occur when the monkey-like boy's mom asks him to take granny's umbrella back to her. From whales to pirates to dinosaurs, the boy encounters alternately fortunate and unfortunate situations. The umbrella is key. Silly and fun adventure.

French, Jackie ***DIARY OF A BABY WOMBAT***

Illus. by Bruce Whatley unp. Clarion Books 2010 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-547-43005-8

A follow-up to her *Diary of a Wombat*, French gives us another humorous look at the lives, and needs, of wombats. This time, of course, the baby wombat goes exploring every day, encountering a human baby (someone to play with!) and eventually going into the house. Continues the humor of the first book.

Graves, Keith ***CHICKEN BIG***

Unp. Chronicle Books 2010 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-8118-7237-9

A "big, humongus chick" hatches out of a large egg and the other chickens aren't sure what he is. Maybe "it's an elephant!" The chick saves the day several times, prompting the other chickens to change their minds about what he is: an umbrella, a sweater, and more. Fun and silly.

Helquist, Brett ***BEDTIME FOR BEAR***

Unp. HarperCollins 2011 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-06-050205-8

Bear is ready for bed for the winter, but his two raccoon friends want to play in the snow with him one more time. At first bear is mad, but then he does join in, and has a great time! Cavorting in the snow is drawn with humor and fun, snowballs fly everywhere. A celebration of winter.

Henkes, Kevin ***LITTLE WHITE RABBIT***

Unp. HarperCollins 2011 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-06-200642-4

The little white rabbit goes exploring and wonders things like: "what it would be like to be green." or "to be tall." The following illustration shows what he is thinking. A fun adventure until he encounters a cat and hurries back to his mother and siblings. Children can then spend some time imagining if they were tall, or really small, etc.

Houston, Gloria ***MISS DOROTHY AND HER BOOKMOBILE***

Illus. by Susan Condie Lamb unp. HarperCollins 2011 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-06-029155-6

The little white rabbit goes exploring and wonders things like: "what it would be like to be green." or "to be tall." The following illustration shows what he is thinking. A fun adventure until he encounters a cat and hurries back to his mother and siblings. Children can then spend some time imagining if they were tall, or really small, etc.

Juster, Norton ***THE ODIIOUS OGRE***

Illus. by Jules Feiffer unp. Scholastic 2010 \$17.95 ISBN 978-0-545-16202-9

A horrible, worst-of-all ogre is used to getting his way. When he encounters a young lady who has never heard of him, and she offers him some tea, he is flabbergasted! Why isn't she screaming and collapsing on the ground? The ogre is at a loss how to deal with her.

Klise, Kate ***STAND STRAIGHT, ELLA KATE: The True Story of a Real Giant***

Illus. by M. Sarah Klise unp. Dial 2010 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-8037-3404-3

Born in 1872, Ella was just like any other baby. But when she was 7 she began to grow, much faster than any other child. This fictionalized story of a real person tells of her loving parents who kept her home to save her from the taunts and teasing of others. But at age 18, and 8 ft. tall, she chose to go to Chicago and be featured at a museum. An author's note at the back of the book fills in some more information about Ella Kate Ewing.

Krensky, Stephen ***THE GREAT MOON HOAX***

Illus. by Josée Bisailon unp. Carolrhoda Books 2011 \$16.95 ISBN 978-0-7613-5110-8

The summer of 1835, the *New York Sun* began reporting on the incredible sites a brand new telescope could see on the moon. Told from the viewpoint of two poor newspaper boys, the sale of papers lets them rent a room and sleep in a bed! Then the news comes out that all the stories were a hoax. Includes an author's note. As a follow-up, what incredible story could your student's make up?

Lies, Brian ***BATS AT THE BALLGAME***

Unp. Houghton Mifflin 2010 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-547-24970-4

Get yourself a mothdog or a box of Cricket Jack, find your seat and get ready for the game! (Look for the young bat still wearing his water wings from the first book.) Lots of fun continues in this latest book from Brian Lies.

McMullen, Kate ***BULLDOG'S BIG DAY***

Illus. by Pacale Lemaitre unp. Scholastic 2011 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-545-17155-7

Bulldog leaves home to look for a job and sees many creatures hurrying to work. He tries fire fighter, window washer, and more but is not successful. He leaves a cookie he baked with each of the animals. At day's end, he finds a line of animals at his door asking for more cookies. He has a job, his own bakery! Lively art and busy pages will appeal to young listeners.

Myers, Walter Dean ***LOOKING FOR THE EASY LIFE***

Illus. by Lee Harper unp. HarperCollins 2011 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-06-054375-4

One day Oswego Pete challenges Uh-huh Freddie for the position of Chief Monkey on Monkey Island. He promises the easy life. The monkeys follow him from Big-Grrs Plains to Bitem Bay and to Hip-Hop Haven. Each area already has some animals there – like lions, sharks and hippos! Back to San Banana Valley with Uh-Huh Freddie still in charge! Using African-American dialect, this is a fun read-aloud.

Quackenbush, Robert **FIRST GRADE JITTERS**

Illus. by Yan Nascimbene unpaginated. HarperCollins 1982, 2010 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-06-077632-9
Originally published in 1982, this edition has new illustrations, and the story still holds true. The boy is worried about first grade. Kindergarten was fine, but first grade will be different and he doesn't know what to expect. His friends, who have been gone all summer, are the ones to help with his jitters.

Rosen, Michael **TINY LITTLE FLY**

Illus. by Kevin Waldron unpaginated. Candlewick Press 2010 \$15.95 ISBN 978-0-7636-4681-3
The tiny fly teases the elephant, the hippo and the tiger. Each is sure they will catch him, but off he goes. Exuberant art and the slight text make this story shine. One two-page fold out shows the three large animals unable to capture the fly.

Savage, Stephen **WHERE'S WALRUS?**

Unpaginated. Scholastic 2011 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-439-70049-8
A zookeeper is looking all over town for the missing walrus, but can't find him anywhere. Can you? Young children will have fun with this, since walrus usually isn't too hard to spot.

Stein, David Ezra **INTERRUPTING CHICKEN**

Unpaginated. Candlewick Press 2010 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-7636-4168-9
Papa gets ready to read a bedtime story to little red chicken, but just as the story starts, she interrupts – with Hansel & Gretel she said, “Don't go in! She's a witch! So Hansel & Gretel didn't. The end!” Kids will love it, especially if they are already familiar with the tales Papa tries to read. (This could create trouble for reading aloud, if you're reading fairy tales...)

Venable, Colleen AF **AND THEN THERE WERE GNOMES**

Illus. by Stephanie Yue 48p. Graphic Universe 2010 \$27.93 (PLB) ISBN 978-0-7613-4599-2;
\$6.95 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-7613-5480-2
(Pet Shop Private Eye series, #2) Told in graphic novel format, Sasspants, the private eye (and a guinea pig), and her assistant Hamisher (a hamster), must investigate the possibility of a ghost in the pet shop. Why else would there be strange spots of cold air? Readers will enjoy the fact that the store owner does not know what kind of animals he has – all are mislabeled.

Venable, Colleen AF **THE FERET'S A FOOT**

Illus. by Stephanie Yue 48p. Graphic Universe 2011 \$27.93 (PLB) ISBN 978-0-7613-5223-5;
\$6.95 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-7613-5629-5
(Pet Shop Private Eye series, #3)
Sasspants, the private eye (and a guinea pig), and her assistant Hamisher (a hamster), must solve the mystery of who is vandalizing the signs on the cages of the pets. Also told in graphic novel format, the characters are fun and the mystery will keep young readers guessing.

Vernick, Audrey ***IS YOUR BUFFALO READY FOR KINDERGARTEN?***

Illus. by Daniel Jennewein unp. HarperCollins 2010 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-06-176275-8

Kids will love the sight of a buffalo trying to use scissors, almost using the swings outside, and getting ready for picture day. Silly and fun, it still gives children an idea of what to expect at kindergarten.

Watt, Mélanie ***SCAREDY SQUIRREL HAS A BIRTHDAY PARTY***

Unp. Kids Can Press 2011 \$16.95 ISBN 978-1-55453-468-5

Scaredy is up to his usual tricks. He does a great job of planning his own birthday party, but only invites himself since that is the safest thing to do. Then he decides to invite his friend Buddy, the dog. Buddy shows up with a bunch of puppies in tow. Scaredy panics and ends up playing dead. Finally, everyone has a good time. Great fun!

Wiesner, David ***ART & MAX***

Unp. Clarion Books 2010 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-618-75663-6

Arthur is a skilled artist. Max is an enthusiastic newcomer. Max doesn't know what to paint and when Art suggests Max paint him, Max takes him literally. This is just the beginning of the problems for Art. Great fun, excellent illustrations, and an opportunity for a discussion about art styles and approaches.

Beginning Readers

Bishop, Nic ***BUTTERFLIES***

32p. Scholastic 2011 \$3.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-545-28434-9

Large, colorful photographs highlight this beginning reader overview of butterflies and their caterpillars. It is unfortunate that it is not currently available in hardback.

Capucilli, Alyssa Satin ***SCAT, CAT!***

Illus. by Paul Meisel 32p. HarperCollins 2010 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-06-117754-5

A small cat is lost, and as he walks along, through the city and into the country he can not find any rest. Everyone keeps telling him to scat!

McMullen, Kate ***PEARL AND WAGNER: Four Eyes***

Illus. by R. W. Alley Dial 2010 \$15.99 ISBN 978-0-8037-3086-1

An eye test at school results in Wagner needing glasses. He does not like them and at the bus stop, Pearl must encourage him to wear them. When some bullies call him names he throws his glasses in his backpack. His friends have a creative solution to the issue.

Minarik, Else Holmelund ***LITTLE BEAR AND THE MARCO POLO***

Illus. by Dorothy Doubleday 32p. HarperCollins 2010 \$6.99 ISBN 978-0-06-085485-0

Little Bear and Grandfather are in the attic, when they open a trunk they find the old sea captain hat and coat Grandfather used to wear. They talk about his old ship, the *Marco Polo*, and where it could take them. Still, Grandfather is quite happy at home with Grandmother.

Rylant, Cynthia **MR. PUTTER & TABBY CLEAR THE DECKS**

Illus. by Arthur Howard unpag. Harcourt 2010 \$15.00 ISBN 978-0-15-206715-1

Mr. Putter & Tabby are bored, and hot. Mrs. Teaberry has an idea – a tour on an old boat. It is great fun (except for Tabby) but Zeke doesn't want to leave the boat when the tour is over. Another fun addition to the series.

Yee, Wong Herbert **MOUSE AND MOLE, A WINTER WONDERLAND**

Unpag. Houghton Mifflin 2010 \$15.00 ISBN 978-0-547-34152-1

Mouse wants to play in the snow, but Mole wants to stay warm in bed. Mouse skates and builds a snowman by herself, but it is lonely. When Mole sees the snowman on her sled, he thinks someone is following her, so he gets dressed and runs outside. Soon they are both having fun in the snow, and some hot tea and cookies in the house. Another good friendship story.

Zobel, Derek **ROAD ROLLERS**

24p. Children's Press & Bellwether Media 2010 \$15.95 ISBN 978-1-60014266-6

Clear full-color photographs dominate the pages with usually two sentences in large text. This title is aimed at emerging readers. The topic is sure to attract attention. Includes a glossary and index.

Nonfiction Picture Books

Cleary, Brian P. **SIX SHEEP SIP THICK SHAKES: And Other Tongue Twisters**

Illus. by Steve Mack 32p. Millbrook Press \$16.95 ISBN 978-1-58013-585-6

Contains 24 tongue twisters with humorous, colorful illustrations. Includes "Make Your Own Tongue Twisters" on one page at the back of the book. A good challenge for readers!

Hatkoff, Juliana, Isabelle Hatkoff & Craig Hatkoff **LEO THE SNOW LEOPARD**

Unpag. Scholastic 2010 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-545-22927-2

The story of the rescue of snow leopard cub found all alone in the Karakoram Mountains of Pakistan by a local man, a goat herder. The cub's story shows the cooperation of several organizations and a zoo to keep him safe and give him a home. Numerous excellent photos enhance the story.

Hoberman, Mary Ann **YOU READ TO ME, I'LL READ TO YOU: Very Short Fables to Read**

Together illus. by Michael Emberley 32p. Little, Brown & Co. 2010 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-316-04117-1

Fifteen poems of 13 fables are included in this collection; kids may not be hearing fables so much anymore, so this is a good choice and great fun! The text is color-coded so all who are reading know when it is their turn. Colorful illustrations in the white spaces add to the appeal. (There are also fairy tales, nursery rhymes, scary stories and short stories in this series.)

Jenkins, Steve & Robin Page **HOW TO CLEAN A HIPPOPOTAMUS**

Unp. Houghton Mifflin 2010 \$16.00 ISBN 978-0-547-24515-7
Lots of illustrations, several per two-page spread, highlight good information in this book on symbiosis. All animals are identified in the final pages of the book.

Prelutsky, Jack (ed.) ***THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE SCHOOL: Classroom Poems***

Illus. by Jane Manning 32p. Greenwillow Books 2010 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-06-082338-2
Various poets provide 18 poems about school. My favorite is "The Drinking Fountain" on page 15.

Raczka, Bob ***GUYKU: A Year of Haiku for Boys***

Illus. by Peter H. Reynolds unp. Houghton Mifflin 2010 \$14.99 ISBN 978-0-547-24003-9
Following the seasons, and beginning with Spring, this title offers 24 haiku poems aimed at boys. The author covers bike riding, tree climbing, skipping stones, and pondering the night sky. Peter H. Reynolds's wonderful illustrations are mostly in browns, with one other color per season: green with spring; yellow w/ summer; all brown for fall, blue with winter.

Schaefer, Lola ***JUST ONE BITE***

Illus. by Geoff Waring unp. Chronicle Books 2010 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-8118-6673-2
A look at how much one animal's bite can contain, and how large or small their mouths are. The artwork carries the book; kids will be fascinated by the illustration sizes. Twelve animals, from microorganisms, and worm to elephant and sperm whale are included. Brief information is listed at the back on each animal. One two-page spread folds out to four pages. Fun and informative.

Serafini, Frank ***LOOKING CLOSELY IN THE RAIN FOREST***

Unp. Kids Can Press 2010 \$16.95 ISBN 978-1-55337-543-2
(Looking Closely series) A series of photos show, on the first page, part of a photo enclosed in a circle surrounded by black. After the reader guesses what it is, the next page reveals the entire photo and a couple of paragraphs of text giving a little information.

Fiction for Grades 2-5 (or so)

Angleberger, Tom ***THE STRANGE CASE OF ORIGAMA YODA***

145p. Amulet Books 2010 \$12.95 ISBN 978-0-8109-8425-7; \$4.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-8109-9650-2
A collection of stories about advice an origama Yoda gives to kids in the 6th grade at McQuarrie Middle School. The stories are collected by Tommy, who is friends with the kind-of-weird kid, Dwight, who made Origama Yoda and walks around with it on his finger. Tommy is collecting information because he wants to know if he should trust Origama Yoda with a very important question (about a girl) and he is puzzled that Origami Yoda gives such good advice when Dwight is rather clueless. Instructions on how to make an origami Yoda are included.

Barrows, Annie ***IVY & BEAN WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?***

Illus. by Sophie Blackall 131p. Chronicle Books 2010 \$14.99 ISBN 978-0-8118-6692-7

(Ivy & Bean, Bk 7) The second-grade class is going to join the school Science Fair with ideas to help alleviate global warming. Ivy and Bean are enthusiastic - they just can't come up with a good idea.

Cannon, A. E. ***THE CHIHUAHUA CHASE***

illus. by Julie Olson 124p. Farrar Straus Giroux 2010 \$15.99 ISBN 978-0-374-31259-6
Addy (4th gr) wonders why Teddy Krebs picks on her so much. But when his chihuahua, Phantom, disappears, she teams up with him to try to find the dog. Two (or maybe 3) possible candidates for dog-nappers will keep the readers guessing. A good early chapter book choice. Frequent illustrations break up the text.

Carris, Joan ***MAGIC AT THE BED & BISCUIT***

Illus. by Noah Z. Jones Candlewick Press 2011 \$15.99 ISBN 978-0-7636-4306-5
(sequel to *Welcome to the Bed & Biscuit* and *Wild Times at the Bed & Biscuit*) Grampa (a vet) has some livestock but also boards pets on his place. His household staff (he calls them his family) help out. Ernest, a mini-pig, Gabby, a mynah, Milly, a young cat, and Sir Walter, a puppy, help run the place. This time a magician leaves Malicia, his Silkie bantam and part of his act, to get some rest. Mostly she gets bored and plays tricks on the other animals. Ernest still continues to uphold Grampa's philosophy of treating their guests with kindness and understanding, while trying to find a way to give Malicia her come-uppance. Good fun and perfect for readers just past the beginning reader level.

Chantler, Scott ***TOWER OF TREASURE***

112p. Kids Can Press 2010 \$17.95 ISBN 978-1-55453-414-2; \$8.95 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-55453-415-9
(Three Thieves, Bk 1) Dessa (14) is an acrobat with a traveling troupe, always looking for her twin brother. She is talked into helping her two fellow performers (Topper & Fisk) rob the Queen's treasury. They almost succeed, but instead are on the run. A good introduction to the characters and plot, with more adventures on the way in upcoming volumes. A graphic novel with full color art is included.

Cole, Henry ***A NEST FOR CELESTE***

342p. HarperCollins 2010 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-06-170410-9
Celeste, a small mouse who loves to weave baskets, lives in a southern plantation-type house. She is bullied by two rats who often steal her food. But one day, she encounters a young guest who enjoys her company and keeps her in his pocket. He is the apprentice to Mr. Audubon, who is there to collect specimens for his project. Celeste has some wonderful, and some scary, adventures and makes some friends. A note at the end of the book talks about Audubon and his techniques.

Cronin, Doreen ***THE TROUBLE WITH CHICKENS***

Illus. by Kevin Cornell 119p. HarperCollins 2011 \$14.99 ISBN 978-0-06-121532-2
(a J.J. Tully Mystery, Bk 1) J.J. is a retired rescue dog (not his idea to retire) -- see the title page and dedication page for two of his exploits. He is relaxing in his doghouse when a chicken enters with a desperate case - two of her chicks are missing. J.J. takes the case, for a cheeseburger. Humor, some

twists, and a likable hero are a good combination by a well-known author. This is her first novel, and is aimed at early chapter book readers with illustrations on most two-page spreads. A sequel is on the way: *The Legend of Diamond Lil*.

English, Karen ***NIKI & DEJA: The Newsy News Newsletter***

Illus by Laura Freeman 91p. Clarion Books 2010 \$15.00 ISBN 978-0-547-22247-9
(Nikki & Deja series, #3) The girls decide to start a neighborhood newsletter, so they take out the first issue and ask people to subscribe. Nikki is a little shy and reluctant to knock on doors at first, but after some sales she feels better. The trouble comes when Nikki and Deja make a couple of assumptions about people in the neighborhood and put it in the newsletter. They feel bad when they find out they were wrong, and they both have to apologize to the people they slandered, and to all the subscribers.

Freeman, Martha ***THE CASE OF THE ROCK & ROLL DOG***

116p. Holiday House 2010 \$16.95 ISBN 978-0-8234-2267-8
(First Kids Mystery, #1) Cammie (10) and her younger sister Tessa (7) live in the White House. Their mom is the first female President, which comes with pros and cons. But now some important artifacts are missing, including the baton of the U.S. Marine Band leader. If Cammie and Tessa don't solve the mystery, their favorite group, The Song Boys, won't be allowed to perform at the White House. Along with the mystery are some background bits of information about where the girls can go and what protocol must be followed. Should catch readers' eyes since currently we do have two girls living in the White House.

French, Vivian ***THE HEART OF GLASS***

Illus. by Russ Collins 244p. Candlewick Press 2010 \$14.99 ISBN 978-0-7636-4814-5
(The Third Tale from the Five Kingdoms) Prince Markus and Gracie Gillypot go into the Unreliable Forest to try to spot some dwarves, but Gracie disappears (she has fallen into a troll trap set decades ago). Things get complicated since the dwarves have made an agreement with the trolls, and the King of Trolls has some plans of his own. Fun, adventure, and danger will continue to hold readers interest. This 3rd book of the series maintains the quality of the first two.

Gidwitz, Adam ***A TALE DARK AND GRIMM***

250p. Dutton 2010 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-525-42334-8
It takes some of the lesser known, original Grimm fairy tales and cleverly winds Hansel and Gretel through them. Starting with their adapted story (they get their heads cut off! and then reattached), he then has them continue through their kingdom and beyond, sometimes separately, to encounter the various troubles of the other fairy tales. The author occasionally addresses the reader throughout the book, at first mostly to request that all young children leave the room, for he tells the bloody, gruesome original versions of the stories, and to warn, on page 16, "...this is where things start to get, well, awesome. But in a horrible, bloody kind of way." Sounds awful, but it is a wonderful reworking of the fairy tales, and kids will be fascinated by the story.

Grant, Michael ***THE CALL***

243p. HarperCollins 2010 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-06-183366-3
(The Magnificent 12 series, Bk 1) When a 3,000 year-old man appear to Mack MacAvoy (12, in 7th gr) in the boys' room at school, he is startled when told he is one of the Magnificent 12 and his task is to find the other 11 and save the world before it is taken over by the Pale Queen and her daughter. Mack has numerous phobias and is not your typical hero. Stefan (15, also in 7th gr) is the ultimate bully, but he suddenly decides to help Mack with his task after Mack saved his life. The book contains adventure and humor; the series is off to a great start.

Hahn, Mary Downing ***THE GHOST OF CRUTCHFIELD HALL***

153p. Clarion Books 2010 \$17.00 ISBN 978-0-547-38560-0
Florence, 12, an orphan for several years, has been called to Crutchfield Hall to live with her great-uncle and her cousin, James, an invalid since his older sister Sophia's death six months ago. It isn't long until Sophia is materializing and influencing Florence to do things. How can James and Florence send Sophia away? Another good ghost story, this one set outside London in the 1800s.

Holub, Joan & Suzanne Williams ***ATHENA THE BRAIN***

160p. Aladdin 2010 \$5.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-4169-8271-5
(Goddess Girls, Bk 1) Athena is 12 when she receives a message from her father -- Zeus! She is summoned to attend Mount Olympus Academy with other godboys and goddessgirls. Stunned to learn Zeus is her father, she leaves her best friend's home and finds everything new at the Academy. A fun, quick read with clever touches: the Trojan War was actually a class assignment in Hero-ology.

Holub, Joan & Suzanne Williams ***PERSEPHONE THE PHONY***

137p. Aladdin 2010 \$5.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-4169-8272-2
(Goddess Girls, Bk 2) Persephone's mom always tells her to be agreeable and go along with what others want, but Persephone thinks that makes her a phony. Maybe she should change...

Holub, Joan & Suzanne Williams ***APHRODITE THE BEAUTY***

156p. Aladdin 2010 \$5.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-4169-8273-9
Book 3.

Holub, Joan & Suzanne Williams ***ARTEMIS THE BRAVE***

221p. Aladdin 2010 \$5.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-4169-8274-6
Book 4.

Jules, Jacqueline ***ZAPATO POWER: Freddie Ramos Takes Off***

Illus. by Miguel Benítez 77p. Scholastic 2010 \$3.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-545-29100-2; Albert Whitman & Co. \$14.99 ISBN 978-0-8075-9480-3
Freddie finds a box addressed to him at his apartment door, with no return address. It contains a pair of purple shoes w/ wings on the sides and a note that says "Zapato Power for Freddie Ramos." No clue who gave them to him. He tries out the shoes, and he can outrun the train! Now his dream of becoming a superhero can become reality. But he is at school all day, how can a superhero do

anything heroic in school? Good fun and a sequel is on the way: *Zapato Power: Freddie Ramos Springs into Action*.

Korman, Gordon **FRAMED**

234p. Scholastic 2010 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-545-17849-5
(sequel to *Swindle* and *Zoobreak*) Griffin Bing, the Man With the Plan, is accused of stealing a Super Bowl ring from the school display case. Evidence supports the accusation, but Griffin didn't do it. Can the team prove him innocent before he is sent to juvie jail? Action, great planning and lots of humor make this third book just as fun as the first two.

LaFevers, R L. **THE WYVERNS' TREASURE**

153p. Houghton Mifflin 2010 \$16.00 ISBN 978-0-547-31618-5
(Bk 3 of the "Nathaniel Fludd, Beastologist" series) The short chapters and frequent illustrations will appeal to readers in grades 2-4. Nate is 10 and his Aunt Phil is training him in the family business of beastology, working to save, protect, and keep secret mythological creatures. Nate's "pet" goblin, Greasle, is a lively character who sometimes surprises Aunt Phil. In this adventure, they must go to the mountains of Wales to calm and pacify the wyverns (dragons), who claim the treaty with them has been broken. Nate and Aunt Phil must find out who is causing the trouble while avoiding being eaten by the young wyverns.

Markey, Kevin **WING DING**

961p. HarperCollins 2011 \$15.99 ISBN 978-0-06-115225-2
(Super Sluggers, Bk 3)
The All-Star game will be played on the Rambletown Field this year. Except that an enormous horde of grasshoppers blew in on the gusty wind and proceeded to eat all the grass. The wind continues to blow hard, and the team's crack shortstop has the yips. Lots of sports action with some humor and steady team support. Still has occasional "film noir" language. Three pages of line-ups and two of stats conclude the book.

Musgrove, Marianne **LUCY THE BAD GOOD**

illus. by Cheryl Orsini 135p. Henry Holt 2010 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-8050-9051-2
Lucy has been having some bad days. Jacinta at school is always picking on her but the teacher never realizes it; and she sometimes makes bad decisions. Her great-aunt from Holland comes to visit and things get harder for Lucy; maybe she really is -- bad! A blending of cultures, Lucy lives in Australia and Tante Bep is from Holland, with her own ideas as to how things are or should be. But Tante Bep does have a soft side, too.

Parker, Jake **RESCUE ON TANKIUM3**

146p. Scholastic 2011 \$21.99 ISBN 978-0-545-11716-6; \$10.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-545-11717-3
(Missile Mouse #2) This graphic novel continues the adventures of the Galactic Security Agency (GSA) best agent, Missile Mouse. (He does tend to blow things up and get in trouble with his boss, though.) In this adventure, Missile Mouse must take a team of security bots and a robotic assistant with him, and he is against it. They travel to the planet Tankium3, where the local inhabitants' minds

are being controlled so they will work as slave labor in the mines. This is a job for Missile Mouse, and Robot 44.

Peirce, Lincoln ***BIG NATE: In a Class by Himself***

224p. HarperCollins 2010 \$12.99 ISBN 978-0-06-194434-5

Nate (6th grade but looks younger to me) is a bit of a trouble-maker (he is not fond of school) and in this first book, his fortune cookie fortune tells him he will surpass all others. Nate spends the day trying to do that, but he is only getting detention again and again. Lots of humor, cartoon like drawings (reminiscent of Wimpy Kid), and interesting characters. Sure to be a hit with readers. The character, Nate Wright, and his companions began as a comic strip.

Peirce, Lincoln ***BIG NATE STRIKES AGAIN***

216p. HarperCollins 2010 \$12.99 ISBN 978-0-06-194436-9

Nate is paired with his nemesis, Gina, on a research project about a famous American. They both feel this is a tragedy; Nate because Gina is so "know-it-all" and Gina because she is sure her grade point average will suffer. As funny and appealing as the first book. Book 3, Big Nate on a Roll, will be out 9/27/11. A companion book of Big Nate comic strips is available now.

Pilkey, Dav ***THE ADVENTURES OF OOK AND GLUK: Kung-Fu Cavemen from the Future***

169p. Blue Sky Press 2010 \$9.99 ISBN 978-0-545-17530-2

George Beard and Harold Hutchins are credited with this second graphic novel (the first being *The Adventures of Super Diaper Baby*). Ook and Gluk live in 500,001 BC and are having a great childhood until Goppernopper Enterprises, using a time machine, comes to their era to nab all the resources (timber, oil, water, etc.) since they are all used up in 2222. Ook & Gluk (and a baby dinosaur, too) are taken to the future where they escape and study Kung-Fu so they can rescue their past. Hilarious, goofy, clever, silly, etc. all you would expect from Dav Pilkey.

Reeve, Philip ***NO SUCH THING AS DRAGONS***

192p. Scholastic 2010 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-545-22224-2

Ansel (10) has been mute since his mother passed away three years ago. His father eagerly arranges for Ansel to serve Johannes Brock, a reasonably successful dragon hunter. Brock confides in Ansel that there really are no such things as dragons, but there is the fear of dragons so he always has work. This trip, though, he might be wrong. Very wrong. People and animals have disappeared and the townsfolk of the mountain village are desperate for help. More death is on the way. Excellent storytelling with a (mostly) sympathetic cast. Sure to be popular with boys and reluctant readers.

Rylander, Chris ***THE FOURTH STALL***

314p. HarperCollins 2011 \$15.99 ISBN 978-0-06-199496-8

Sixth-grader Mac helps the grade-school kids with what they need. Trouble with bullies? Need some advice? Ma can help you for a reasonable fee. Vince is his right-hand man, keeping track of the money. Their office is in a never used bathroom. But one day, Mac finds out about a guy who is collecting gambling debts and putting pressure on the students. When Mac takes him on, Mac may

end up squashed. As Jon Scieszka says on the back of the book, “a story about sixth-grade wiseguys that is funny, mysterious, and true to the heart of what really matters...”

Scieszka, Jon ***SPHDZ Book #2***

230p. Simon & Schuster 2010 \$14.99 ISBN 978-1-4169-7953-1
Things are getting more complicated. Jennifer, Bob and Fluffy (the class hamster) are from another planet and are here to get 3.14 million and 1 earthlings to be Spaceheads. Michael K. needing more help to spread the word and protect Jennifer & Bob, reveals the aliens to his friends TJ and Venus. They soon are all working on some plans to get more SPHDZ! Agent Umber (of the Anti-Alien Agency) continues his search to find and capture the aliens. Lots of illustrations and wacky goings-on continue in Book 2.

Smith, Jeff and Tom Sniegoski ***TALL TALES***

Illus. by Jeff Smith 108p. Graphix (Scholastic) 2010 \$10.99 ISBN 978-0-545-14096-6
(Bone) (some of the stories previously published in black and white with the title Stupid-Stupid Rat-Tails) Smiley Bone and Bartleby take three young Bone Scouts out for an overnight in the woods. Storytelling by Smiley enchants two of them, but not the third. Later that night the skeptical young Bone puts on the big hat the leader wears, and has a lengthy dream about Big Johnson Bone and how he endeavored to overcome the Rat Creatures, their Queen and their Prince to save the animals of a valley. It is quite a Tall Tale! (graphic novel with full-color illustrations)

Smith, Roland ***STORM RUNNERS***

143p. Scholastic Press 2011 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-545-08175-7
(Book 1 of a proposed trilogy) Chase Masters (12) and his father have been traveling the country for a year, helping people rebuild after disasters (for a fee, of course). Chase changes schools so often it's hard to count. Now they are in Florida with a hurricane on the way; and while his dad thinks Chase is in a safe area the hurricane may end up right where he is. All he has learned from his father may keep him and a new friend alive. Great adventure. The first book does have a conclusion to one part of the story, but a cliff-hanger for another. Can't wait for Bk 2!

Sniegoski, Tom ***QUEST FOR THE SPARK*** (Book 1)

Illus. by Jeff Smith 218p. Scholastic 2011 \$10.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-545-14102-4
Thorn, the Queen, is gravely ill. Tom Elm, and his raccoon friend Roderick, should be helping his parents with the turnip crop. Before long he has encountered Percival Bone and his niece and nephew and they are embroiled in fighting the dark that is trying to take over the world. (graphic novel with full-color illustrations)

Spratt, R. A. ***THE ADVENTURES OF NANNY PIGGINS***

Illus. by Dan Santat 239p. Little, Brown & Co. 2010 \$15.99 ISBN 978-0-316-06819-2
Nanny Piggins may be the world's most unusual nanny. She arrives one morning after seeing the Nanny Wanted sign in the yard. Mr. Green can't believe his luck when she charges 10¢ an hour. He doesn't notice she literally is a pig. Derrick, Samantha and Michael soon learn she used to be shot out of a cannon at the circus and loves to make everything fun – even shopping for school uniforms.

Wacky adventures are the norm and kids will love finding out what Nanny Piggins has in store next. Open with a one-page “Disclaimer” about eating or acting like Nanny Piggins. Great fun!

Vernon, Ursula ***DRAGONBREATH: Curse of the Were-Wiener***

204p. Dial Press 2010 \$12.99 ISBN 978-0-8037-3469-2

(Bk. 3) Danny (a dragon) is wondering about the redness of the lunchroom's hot dog, when it bites his best friend Wendell (an iguana) on the hand. They discover the hot dogs are were-wieners from Transylvania. Thus begins their search for the alpha wurst, and the information for how to "take him out." Told mostly in text with numerous black, white, green, (and an occasional red) illustrations, the story is occasionally told with a page or two of graphic novel format and then back to text. It's also great fun.

Voake, Steve ***DAISY DAWSON AND THE BIG FREEZE***

Illus. by Jessica Meserve 83p. Candlewick Press 2010 \$14.99 ISBN 978-0-7636-4729-2

When Daisy hears her favorite new lamb, Woolverton, is lost in the woods that border the farmer's field, she and her friend, Boom the dog, go to look for him. It helps that Daisy can talk to and understand the animals. The illustrations, on almost every two-page spread, will appeal to new chapter book readers and add to the story.

Wallace, Rich ***THE BALL HOGS***

Illus. by Jimmy Holder 119p. Alfred A. Knopf 2010 \$12.99 ISBN 978-0-375-85754-6; \$15.00 (PLB) ISBN 978-0-375-95754-3

(Kickers, Bk 1) (Book 1 of a new series, there will be 4 books, reportedly) Ben (4th grade) is on a new co-ed soccer team with Mark, who brags about his abilities and hogs the ball. Ben knows he should be a good team player but he hogs the ball sometimes himself, and it hurts the team. Maybe everyone needs to develop more team spirit. Well written with action on the soccer field and in the four square court at school. It's great to have this excellent author writing for younger children, too.

Williams, Maiya ***THE FIZZYWHIZ KID***

270p. Abrams 2010 \$16.95 ISBN 978-0-8109-8347-2

Cecil B. DeMille Elementary School in Hollywood, new kid Mitch (6th grade) is way out of the main stream. The other kids in his class are actors, or children of directors, agents etc. His dad is a professor studying cockroaches. He stands out by not standing out. To try fitting in, he auditions (kinda by accident) for a role in a series of commercials for the soda pop, Fizzy Whiz. He is the darling of the school for a while, then things start to crumble. A fun look at the world of acting and fame, with some lessons learned by the end of the book.

Zahler, Diane ***THE THIRTEENTH PRINCESS***

243p. HarperCollins 2010 \$15.99 ISBN 978-0-06-182498-2

Zita learns she is the 13th princess, but is made to work in the kitchen since she was the King's last try for a male heir. She gets to know her sisters behind their father's back, and they treat her lovingly. When they seem to be getting ill, Zita may be the one to break the spell over them.

Zahler, Diane *A TRUE PRINCESS*

182p. HarperCollins 2011 \$15.99 ISBN 978-0-06-182501-9
(I have not read this yet, it appears to be a retelling of The Princess and the Pea.)

Nonfiction for Grades 2-5 (or so)

Bishop, Nic *LIZARDS*

48p. Scholastic 2010 17.99 ISBN 978-0-545-20634-1
Amazing photos, as expected, and clear concise text introduce some of the world's lizards to the reader. One two-page foldout shows the basilisk lizard running across water. The author/photographer's comments at the back of the book are eye-opening about some of the difficulties of getting these photos.

Campbell, Sarah C. *GROWING PATTERNS: Fibonacci Numbers in Nature*

32p. Boyds Mills Press 2010 \$17.95 ISBN 978-1-59078-752-6
An easy-to-understand basic look at Fibonacci numbers. Excellent photos easily show the flower petals and spirals in pine cones, etc. Math and science teachers will certainly want to know about this title.

Krull, Kathleen *KUBLA KHAN: Emperor of Everything*

Illus. by Robert Byrd unp. Viking 2010 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-670-01114-8
Another excellent biography by Krull, she acknowledges in the book how difficult it is to write about Kubla Khan since so little about him was actually written down by trustworthy historians. Still, she carefully fills in what she can about him and his time. The illustrations are also impressive.

McDonough, Yana Zeldis *WHO WAS ROSA PARKS?*

Illus. by Stephen Marchesi 106p. Grosset & Dunlap 2010 \$4.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-448-45442-9
A biography of Rosa Parks written in a conversational style. Occasional insets tell of other, related topics on a single page or a two-page spread. They cover items such as the Ku Klux Klan, Jim Crow laws, Brown vs. the Board of Education, as well as other Civil Rights leaders.

Nicolson, Cynthia Pratt *TOTALLY HUMAN: Why We Look and Act the Way We Do*

Illus. by Diane Eastman 40p. Kids Can Press 2011 \$16.95 ISBN 978-1-55453-569-9
Information on questions kids will have: "Why do we get hiccups?" "Why do we burp and fart?" Goofy illustrations may add, or detract, from the information depending on your readers' point of view. The answers often refer to evolution and genes.

Roop, Peter and Connie *TALES OF FAMOUS HEROES*

Illus. by Rebecca Zomchek 103p. Scholastic 2010 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-545-23750-5
Eighteen figures of history or current day are covered in this title. Six pages are devoted to each person, including Sacagawea, Winston Churchill, Nelson Mandela, Sonia Sotomayor, and one group:

the Tuskegee Airmen. All are positive biographies with a readable text and caricature type image at the beginning of each entry.

Silvey, Anita ***HENRY KNOX: Bookseller, Soldier, Patriot***

Illus. by Wendell Minor 40p. Clarion Books 2010 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-618-27485-7
Tells of this lesser known patriot, and his skills at using artillery during the Revolutionary War as well as his almost impossible task of bringing the cannons from Fort Ticonderoga to Boston. The trek of 300 miles with heavy equipment over lakes and mountains was amazing. Well-written with wonderful illustrations.

Singer, Marilyn ***MIRROR, MIRROR***

Illus. by José Masse unpaginated. Dutton 2010 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-525-47901-7
A book of reverse poetry. The author writes one poem, then, beside the first poem, are the same words backwards with some different spacing and punctuation, creating a second, different poem. Fascinating. Read it to students and challenge them to write a set of mirror poems (reversos) themselves.

Smith, David L. ***IF THE WORLD WERE A VILLAGE: A Book About the World's People***

Illus. by Shelagh Armstrong 32p. Kids Can Press 2011, 2nd ed. \$18.95 ISBN 978-1-55453-595-8
This second edition is an update, and includes some new information. Topics covered include: nationalities, languages, ages, religions, food, air & water, school & work, money & possessions, energy, health, and the number of people in the past with speculation on the future.

Urbigkit, Cat ***PATH OF THE PRONGHORN***

Photos by Mark Gocke 32p. Boyds Mills Press 2010 \$17.95 ISBN 978-1-59078-756-4
A good introduction to the pronghorn and its life cycle, including enough information for report writers. Excellent photos will draw in readers. Includes a page noting the pronghorn almost became extinct.

WISE AT HEART: Children and Adults Share Words of Wisdom

72p. Kids Can Press 2011 \$18.95 ISBN 978-1-55453-630-6
Wonderful photographs highlight this collection of advice and wisdom from people of all ages. Some names we will recognize: Jane Yolen, Tom Hanks; some are kids from somewhere in the world. Lots to think about and discuss, as a class, as a family, and as friends.



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