



Notable Books 2008

SCUSD Library Textbook Services

Notable Books for 2008-2009

All titles are copyright 2008 unless indicated.

1, 2, *Buckle My Shoe*, Ana Grossnickle Hines, \$16.00, Harcourt **Grades PreK**

A child learns to count with the help of a classic nursery rhyme. Illustrated entirely with quilt patches decked out with buttons including endpapers covered with bright buttons. Children who are just learning to count will enjoy the bright artwork. **PreK Open Court: I Am Special**

3 *Bears and Goldilocks*, Margaret Willey, illustrated by Heather Solomon, \$17.00, Atheneum **K-3**

Goldilocks, ignoring her father's warning not to rush in where she does not belong, enters a cabin in the woods, cleans it to meet her standards, plucks from the porridge items unappealing to her before eating a bowlful, and falls asleep on the bed that suits her best. Told in the voice of Goldilocks and highlights a lair that looks like a lair, with feathers, fish bones, and debris. **Open Court: Sharing Stories**

☺ *Abe Lincoln Crosses a Creek: a Tall, Thin Tale (Introducing his Forgotten Frontier Friend*, Deborah Hopkinson, illustrations by John Hendrix, Schwartz & Wade **Grades K-3**

In Knob Creek, Kentucky, in 1816, seven-year-old Abe Lincoln falls into a creek and is saved from drowning in the rushing river by his best friend, Austin Gollaher. Hopkinson relates the unknowns of history with these words "He pulls Abe out by his shirttail. Or maybe he uses a sycamore branch -- or a fishing pole. We'll let John decide which sketch to paint. For that's the thing about history -- if you weren't there, you can't know for sure." Illustrated with map like ink-and-watercolor artwork that occasionally shows the hand and brush of the illustrator as it gets caught in the act of creating the scene.

☺ *Abe's Honest Words: The Life of Abraham Lincoln*, Doreen Rappaport, illustrated by Kadir Nelson, \$17.00, Hyperion, 2009 **Grades 3-5**

An engaging account of Lincoln's life, from his humble beginnings and his early political career through his struggles to preserve the Union and to help abolish slavery. The free verse text is accompanied by generously sized artwork. **Grade 3 HSS 3.4.6**

Abracadabra! Magic with Mouse and Mole, Wong Herbert Yee, \$15.00, Houghton, 2007 **Gr K-3**

Mole is mad about magic until he takes his friend Mouse to a show that turns out to be all tricks, but then Mouse conjures up a special night program to show him the enchantment found in nature. Sequel to *Upstairs Mouse, Downstairs Mole* (2005)

☺ *The Adventures of Daniel Boom, A.K.A. Loud Boy. (Book 1, Sound Off!)* David Steinberg, \$6.00, Grosset & Dunlap **Grades 3-6**

Daniel Boom, a kid with no volume control, becomes Loud Boy and fights the Kid-Rid Corporation, which has silenced the world with a machine called the Soundsucker LX. Laden with plenty of puns, kids will anxiously await Daniel's next adventure. Illustrated with retro gloss on cartoon art characteristic of the 1950s.

African Critters, Robert B. Haas, \$27.00, Nat'l Geographic **Grades 3-6**

National Geographic photographer Robert B. Haas shares his experience in Africa and his wildlife photographs and provides information about the animals of the continent. The brief, chatty text and the unframed pictures catch the harsh reality of the animals' life-and-death struggles in Africa. "Even with all the glossy animal books already crowding the shelves, this book is a must-purchase; students and teachers will find it an exceptionally strong combination of action, information, and conservation." *Booklist*

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☹ *After Tupac and D. Foster*, Jacqueline Woodson, Putnam **Grades 6-9**

In the New York City borough of Queens in 1996, three girls bond over their shared love of Tupac Shakur's music, as together they try to make sense of the unpredictable world in which they live. Authentic language

Ain't Nothing but a Man: My Quest to Find the Real John Henry, Scott Reynolds Nelson, \$19.00, Nat'l Geographic **Grades 4-8**

Historian Scott Nelson introduces children to the life of the real John Henry, drawing on songs, poems, and stories to describe the man behind the legendary African-American hero. This is an excellent example of how much detective work is needed for original research. **Open Court: A Changing America, Grade 5 HSS 5.8**

☹ *Airman*, Eoin Colfer, Hyperion **Grades 5-8**

In the 1890s on an island off the Irish coast, Conor Broekhart is falsely imprisoned and passes the solitary months by scratching designs of flying machines into the walls, including one for a glider with which he dreams of escape.

☹ *Albert The Fix-It-Man*, Janet Lord, illustrated by Julie Paschkis, \$16.00, Peachtree **PreK-2**

A cheerful repairman fixes squeaky doors, leaky roofs, and crumbling fences for his neighbors, who return the kindness when he catches a terrible cold. The rhythmic, simple text is perfect for reading aloud, and accompanied by cheerful illustrations. **Open Court: Our Neighborhood at Work, K HSS K.3**

☹ *Amelia Earhart: The Legend of the Lost Aviator*, Shelley Tanaka, \$19.00, Abrams

Presents the story of the legendary aviator, Amelia Earhart, from her childhood until her final flight in 1937. This picture book for older readers is especially informative and attractive with paintings, historical photographs, sidebars and captions.

The Apple-Pip Princess, Jane Ray, \$17.00, Candlewick **Grades K-3**

In a land that has stood barren, parched by drought and ravaged by frosts since the Queen's death, the King sets his three daughters the task of making the kingdom bloom again, and discovers that sometimes the smallest things can make the biggest difference. The elegant illustrations help to encourage young readers to consider the true value of things and people's actions. **Open Court: Storytelling**

Bandit, Karen Rostoker-Gruber, illustrated by Vincent Nguyen, M. Cavendish **Grades PreK-2**

When Bandit's family moves to a new house, the cat runs away and returns to the only home he knows, but after he is brought back, he understands that the new house is now home. Illustrated with mixed-media illustrations that have an attractive Pop Art style, reminiscent of comic-books.

Bear's Picture, Daniel Pinkwater, illustrated by D.B. Johnson \$16.00, Houghton **Grades K-3**

A bear continues to paint what he likes despite the criticism of two passing gentlemen who believe that bears cannot be artists. The result is an entertaining view of what makes art. Illustrated with mixed-media artwork, including paper sculptures. Bear makes a grand champion for all young artists.

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Bees, Snails, and Peacock Tails, Betsy Franco, illustrated by Steve Jenkins, Margaret McElderry, \$17.00, **Grades K-3**

Geometry in the animal world is the theme of this selection. Poems highlight the science and geometrical patterns of various animals, such as starfish, peacocks, diamondback snakes, and spiders. Illustrated with outstanding detailed collage in Jenkins' distinctive style.

☹ *Benny and Penny: In Just Pretend*, Geoffrey Hayes, \$13.00, RawJunior/Toon **Grades PreK-2**

Annoyed with his little sister who always wants to play pretend with him, Benny the mouse intentionally loses her, but soon feels bad after she is gone. A rich vocabulary is used with sufficient repetition to help with word recognition. Illustrated with delicately colored illustrations with an old-fashioned feel.

Beowulf: A Tale of Blood, Heat, and Ashes, Nicky Raven, Ret., \$19.00, Candlewick, 2007 **Gr 6+**

A modern, illustrated retelling of the Anglo-Saxon epic about the heroic efforts of Beowulf, son of Ecgtheow, to save the people of Heorot Hall from the terrible monster, dragon, Grendel. "Expansive, atmospheric watercolor, ink, and colored-pencil paintings—some panoramas, some portraits--vividly capture an ancient, romanticized world of monsters and heroes." *Horn Book*

Big Bad Bunny, Franny Billingsley, illustrated by G. Brian Karas, \$17.00, Atheneum **PreK-2**

Mama Mouse hurriedly searches the forest for her missing little one, Baby Boo-Boo, while Big Bad Bunny stomps and growls not far away, but the bunny may not be as bad as it seems. The writing has plenty of repetition and onomatopoeia. The artwork is scribbly, with silly depictions.

Big Kicks, Bob Kolar, \$17.00, Candlewick **Grades PreK-1**

The town's soccer team knocks on Biggie Bear's door one day saying they need his help; however, once on the field Biggie realizes there is more to playing soccer than just being big. A very strong story combines with outstanding digital artwork that is vibrant without being garish. Encourages trying things out of one's comfort zone. **Open Court: Games**

Big Little Monkey, Carole Lexa Schaefer, illustrated by Pierre Pratt, \$17.00, Candlewick **Gr K-2**

Little Monkey sets out one morning to find the perfect playmate, with a "bim-ba-lah, bim-ba-lah." He swings through the trees encountering a singing parrot, a hissing boa, and a quiet sloth before finding someone to play with. Illustrated in bright acrylics.

Bird Lake Moon, Kevin Henkes, \$16.00, Greenwillow **Grades 5-7**

Twelve-year-old Mitch, spending the summer with his grandparents at Bird Lake after his parents' separation, becomes friends with ten-year-old Spencer, who has returned with his family to the lake where his little brother drowned years earlier, and as the boys spend time together and their friendship grows, each of them begins to heal. Told in overlapping chapters.

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☺ *Birds on a Wire*, J. Patrick Lewis & Paul Janeczko, illustrations by Gary Lippincott, \$18.00, Wordsong **Grades 2-4**

The text of this book is a renga, a poem in which one author writes one verse (three lines) and another writes the next (two lines), linking the new verse to the previous one in some way. The poems describe the places and people one might see walking down the main street of a small American town. Illustrated with realistic artwork that also connects one scene with another. Recommended as a starter for a writing lesson.

☺ *Birmingham, 1963*, Carole Boston Weatherford, Boyds Mills, 2007 **Grades 4-8**

Describes the feelings of a fictional character who witnessed the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church bombings in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1963. On each double-page spread, a few lines of spare poetry are placed opposite a stirring, unframed archival photograph. An emotional read, made even more powerful by the viewpoint of the child narrator.

☺ *The Black Book of Colors*, Menena Cottin, illustrations by Rosana Faria, \$18.00, Groundwood **Grades K-4**

This non-picture book reads triumphantly. White text appears on black pages, with braille above; on the facing page, also black, images suggested in the text are printed in raised black lines, inviting the reader to discover them through touch alone. Encourages children to use their other senses to experience art, helping them understand what it is like to be blind. **Open Court: Communication**

Boogie Knights, Lisa Wheeler, illustrations by Mark Siegel \$17.100, Atheneum **Grades K-4**

When the knights of the castle are awakened by the noise from the Madcap Monster Ball, they decide to join the party. When the ball begins, the illustrations are monochrome, but when the seven knights join in, the style changes and more color is added.

A Boy Named Beckoning, Gina Capaldi, \$17.00, Carolrhoda **Grades 3-6**

An illustrated exploration of the life of Yavapai Indian Carlos Montezuma, which chronicles his childhood, in which he was kidnapped, sold into slavery, and adopted by an Italian photographer; relates what he learned when he set out to uncover his family's past; discusses his work as a doctor; and includes photographs. This title should be promoted for Native American, multicultural, and biography units. An excellent **BIOGRAPHY** choice for Gr. 4-6. **Open Court: Going West, Grade 5 HSS 5.8**

☺ *Boycott Blues: How Rosa Parks Inspired a Nation*, Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrations by Brian Pinkney, \$18.00, Greenwillow **Grades 3-5**

Uses the form of a blues song to share the story of the year-long bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama, sparked by seamstress Rosa Parks' refusal to give up her seat on a city bus to a white passenger in 1955, which resulted in a repeal of the Jim Crow segregation laws. **Open Court: Taking a Stand**

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☹ *Boys of Steel: the Creators of Superman*, Marc Tyler Nobleman, illustrated by Ross MacDonald, \$17.00, Knopf **Grades 4-6**

This well-researched picture book biography introduces the youthful inventors of Superman, Cleveland teenagers Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster. Illustrated with punchy illustrations, done in a classic litho palette of brassy gold, antique blue and fireplug red. A bibliography and assurances that all dialogue was excerpted from interviews puts factual muscle on the narrative.

The Brothers' War: Civil War Voices in Verse, J. Patrick Lewis, \$18.00, National Geographic, 2007 **Grades 6-9**

Presents poems that adopt the voices of soldiers, commanders, and slaves and other civilians during the Civil War, pairing each poem with a period photo, and includes facts on the conflict. The poems are presented with historical photos that illustrate them.

☹ *Buffalo Music*, Tracy E. Fern, illustrated by Lauren Castillo, Clarion **Grades 2-5**

After hunters kill off the buffalo around her Texas ranch, a woman begins raising orphan buffalo calves and eventually ships four members of her small herd to Yellowstone National Park, where they form the beginnings of newly thriving buffalo herds. Based on the true story of Mary Ann Goodnight and her husband Charles. Illustrations are mixed-media, in thick black lines filled in with colored pencil. **Open Court: Going West, Grade 5 HSS 5.8**

The Buffalo Storm, Katherine Applegate, illustrated by Jan Ormerod, \$16.00, Clarion, 2007 **Gr 3-5**

Hallie and her parents join a wagon train to Oregon leaving her grandmother behind, and now Hallie must learn to face the storms that frighten her as well as other, newer fears, with just her grandmother's quilt to comfort her. The pictures, colors and gentle tale combine to make a solid package. Teachers will appreciate this high-quality combination of text and illustration. **Open Court: Going West, Grade 5 HSS 5.8**

Bye-Bye, Crib, Alison McGhee, illustrated by Ross MacDonald, \$17.00, Simon & Schuster **Grades PreK-K**

A big boy and his best stuffed friend seek the courage to move out of their crib and sleep in a gigantic big boy bed for the first time. "The retro-style artwork, including elements drawn from superhero comics, hint at the bravery and bravado behind many childhood transitions."

Booklist PreK Open Court: I Am Special

The Calder Game, Blue Balliett, \$18.00, Scholastic **Grades 5-8**

When seventh-grader Calder Pillay disappears from a remote English village, along with an Alexander Calder sculpture to which he has felt strangely drawn, his friends Petra and Tommy fly from Chicago to help his father find him.

The Case of the Bizarre Bouquets: An Enola Holmes Mystery, Nancy Springer, \$15.00, Philomel **Grades 5-8**

Fourteen-year-old Enola Holmes, disguised as a beautiful woman, finds clues in floral bouquets as she searches for the missing Doctor Watson, a companion of her famous older brother, Sherlock.

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Chicken Feathers, Joy Cowley, Illustrated by David Elliot, Philomel **Grades 3-5**

Relates the story of the summer Josh spends while his mother is in the hospital awaiting the birth of his baby sister, and his pet chicken Semolina, who talks but only to him, is almost killed by a red fox. "Original, well-crafted, and touching, Cowley's story begs to be read aloud-over and over again." *School Library Journal*

Christopher Counting, Valeri Gorbachev, \$16.00, Philomel **Grades PreK-1**

When Christopher Rabbit learns to count in school, he enjoys it so much that he counts everything in sight, including how many baskets his friends make when they play basketball and how many peas and carrots are on his plate." Not only is it a wonderful read-aloud, but it also works well as a beginning reader." *School Library Journal*

☹ *Clementine's Letter*, Sara Pennypacker, pictures by Marla Frazee, Hyperion **Grades 2-4**

After learning that her favorite teacher will be leaving for a trip to Egypt and will be absent for the remainder of the year, Clementine devises a plan to get rid of the substitute and get Mr. D'Matz to stay. Pen-and-ink drawings capture Clementine's personality and her world.

Colonial Voices: Hear Them Speak, Kay Winters, illustrated by Larry Day, \$18.00, Dutton **Gr 3-6**

In colonial Boston, Ethan, a printer's errand boy, must deliver an important message to the Patriots. Everyone has an opinion about the King and his tea tax and everywhere Ethan goes, there's a sense of urgency. Ethan witnesses the daily events and practices of the printer, the shoemaker, the basket trader, and others. Illustrated with ink-and-watercolor artwork. **Open Court: Making a New Nation, Grade 5 HSS 5.5**

Come Fly with Me, Satomi Ichikawa, \$16.00, Philomel **Grades PreK-1**

Cosmos, a wooden plane, tells his friend Woggy, a stuffed dog, that he yearns to leave their playroom and go somewhere, so the two set off for an adventure high above the rooftops of Paris. "The adventure element is perfectly keyed to the age group—trouble and turbulence are endured with bravery that leads to a happy resolution. Although children may not understand that the setting is Paris, the charming watercolors with their ever-changing scenes and skies will pull them in. This is a perfect choice for story hours." *Booklist*

Cool Daddy Rat, Kristyn Crow, illustrated by Mike Lester, \$17.00, Putnam **Grades K-2**

A young rat hides in his father's bass case and tags along as he plays and scats around the big city. "What drives this book is the swingin' beat of the text, which jumps and jives and begs to be read aloud... loosely drawn pencil-and-watercolor illustrations have a cartoon like quality that adds energy and exuberance to the whole. The artwork pops with the same humor and zing as the text, creating a colorful backdrop that evokes the romance of the city night." *School Library Journal*

Coraline (Graphic Novel), Neil Gaiman, \$19.00, HarperCollins **Grades 5-8**

Looking for excitement, Coraline ventures through a mysterious door into a world that is similar, yet disturbingly different from her own, where she must challenge a gruesome entity in order to save herself, her parents, and the souls of three others.

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A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever, Marla Frazee, \$16.00, Harcourt **Grades PreK-K**

Friends James and Eamon enjoy a wonderful week at the beach house of Eamon's grandparents during summer vacation. They go to nature camp during the day and delight the grandparents at night with their antics. "This intergenerational story will elicit howls of laughter and requests for repeated readings." *School Library Journal* **Open Court: Friendship**

The Crocodile Blues, Coleman Polhemus, \$17.00, Candlewick, 2007 **Grades PreK-2**

Lift-the-flap pages. A wordless tale in which a man and his pet cockatoo discover, much to their dismay, the true nature of the egg they bring home from the store. "In the middle of the night, they hear a loud "Crack" and find that a crocodile has hatched. They depart, leaving the crocodile in residence. The creature turns the place into a nightclub, invites the man back, and presents him with another egg. Youngsters will laugh at both the story line and the characters depicted in this zany book." *School Library Journal*

The Crossroads, Chris Grabenstein, \$17.00, Random **Grades 5-8**

When eleven-year-old Zack Jennings moves to Connecticut with his father and new stepmother, they must deal with the ghosts left behind by a terrible accident, as well as another kind of ghost from Zack's past. "An absorbing psychological thriller, as well as a rip-roaring ghost story, this switches points of view among humans, trees, and ghosts with astonishing élan. Expect lots of requests." *School Library Journal*

The Day Leo Said I Hate You!, Robbie H. Harris, Illustrated by Molly Bang, \$17.00, Little Brown **Grades PreK-1**

Leo, upset that he has been hearing the word "no" all day, lets three words slip out that he wishes he could take back. After being sent to his room and yelled at for drawing a mean picture on his wall, Leo unleashes the dreaded curse. The two page spread is vibrantly illustrated in Bang's scribbling, cut paper style.

Delicious: The Art and Life of Wayne Thiebaud, Susan Goldman Rubin, \$16.00, Chronicle, 2007 **Grades 5-8**

Chronicles the life and career of American painter Wayne Thiebaud, discussing his depictions of foods, people, farms, cities, and other subjects. Readers learn about his childhood, his artistic training and background, and his struggle to find his style and to gain an audience with reproductions carefully selected to illustrate each phase of his life. **Open Court: Imagination**

☺ *The Diamond of Drury Lane*, Julia Golding, \$13.00, Roaring Brook **Grades 5-8**

Orphan Catherine "Cat" Royal, living at the Drury Lane Theater in 1790s London, tries to find the "diamond" supposedly hidden in the theater, which unmasks a treasonous political cartoonist, and involves her in the street gangs of Covent Garden and the world of nobility.

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Dinosaurs: The Most Complete, Up-to-Date Encyclopedia for Dinosaur Lovers of All Ages, Thomas R. Holtz, \$35.00, Random, 2003 **Grades 5-8**

A comprehensive encyclopedia that provides information on dinosaurs, their history, evolution, distribution, appearance, habitats, and eventual extinction. This is an up-to-date compendium that arises from new research. "The information is often partnered with sidebars or commentaries by paleontologists working in the field, in museums, and in university labs. The illustrations range from small photos to larger sepia-toned drawings to even larger full-color paintings." *School Library Journal*

☺ *Dog and Bear: Two's Company*, Laura Vaccaro Seeger, \$13.00, Roaring Brook **Grades PreK-1**

Three more easy-to-read stories reveal the close friendship between a dachshund named Dog and a stuffed bear. "Picture books about friends are common, and Seeger makes it all look deceptively simple. But besides the clear, simple story lines, the joy of these picture books is in the subtle way the pictures and text work together to evoke emotions familiar even to young children." *Booklist* **Open Court: Finding Friends**

Don't Worry Bear, Greg E. Foley, \$16.00, Viking **Grades PreK-1**

A caterpillar reassures a worried bear that they will see each other again when the caterpillar emerges from its cocoon. Uncluttered illustrations, all spreads, and the large, spare text have pastel backgrounds. "A great book to share with little ones who face a prolonged absence from a beloved friend or relative." *Horn Book* **Pre K Open Court: Changes**

Ducks Don't Wear Socks, John Nedwidek, illustrated by Lee White, \$16.00, Viking **Grades PreK-2**

Emily, a serious girl, meets a duck who helps her see the more humorous side of life. "White's watercolor artwork sets aside realism in favor of humor (Duck's green head looks like a cucumber), and wonderfully captures both Duck's freewheeling nature and Emily's increasing enjoyment of Duck's eccentricities. In the end, Emily dresses up as Duck and gives him a pleasant surprise of her own." *Booklist*

☺ *Duel!: Burr and Hamilton's Deadly War of Words*, Dennis B. Fradin, illustrated by Larry Day, \$17.00, Walker **Grades 3-6**

Examines the Burr-Hamilton duel which occurred on July 11, 1804, in which Vice-president Aaron Burr and the secretary of treasury, Alexander Hamilton, used dueling pistols to settle their political grievances. Includes maps on endpapers. Illustrated with stirring paintings.

Earthquakes, Judy & Dennis Fradin, \$17.00, National Geographic **Grades 4-6**

Explains the science behind why earthquakes occur, provides accounts of some of history's worst earthquakes, and looks at how researchers are working to be able to predict and prepare for such disasters. Includes first-person accounts from those who experienced earthquakes and also from the scientists who study them add immediacy. Illustrated with outstanding color and archival photographs. **Grade 5 Science**

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☹ *Elizabeth Leads The Way: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and The Right to Vote*, Tanya Lee Stone, illustrated by Rebecca Gibbon, \$17.00, Holt **Grades 1-4**

A brief biography of the life and achievements of nineteenth-century women's rights activist, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who fought for a woman's right to vote. "Excellent gouache and colored pencil illustrations, rendered in a lighthearted folk-art style, provide rich background for the brief text. They establish the time period through visual details and capture Stanton's spirit and the attitudes of those she encounters without overstatement." *School Library Journal* **Grade 2 HSS 2.5**

Emi and the Rhino Scientist, Mary Kay Carson, photographs by Tom Uhlman, \$18.00, Houghton, 2007 **Grades 5-8**

Photographs and text provide information on the rare Sumatran rhino, the world's smallest and most endangered animal on the planet. "The text is full of important details, and the photographs are unfailingly crisp, bright, and full of variety. Reproductive biology and breeding with human assistance are explained as are the conservation and environmental issues impacting rhino survival in the wild." *School Library Journal* **Open Court: Ecology**

Everybody Bonjourns!, Leslie Kimmelman, illustrated by Sarah McMenemy, \$16.00, Knopf **Grades PreK-1**

A mom, dad, girl, and baby travel to Paris, where everyone says bonjour. As they explore the sights, they are cheerfully greeted again and again. Mixed-media illustrations show the family visiting the Eiffel Tower, a cafe, the zoo, and an open-air market. A clever introduction to a foreign culture as seen through a child's eyes.

☹ *Eye of the Crow*, Shane Peacock, \$20.00, Tundra, 2007 **Grades 5-9**

In 1867, Sherlock Holmes, an impoverished young outcast with a Jewish father and a highborn mother, visits the scene of a woman's brutal murder, where he meets a wrongly accused young Arab and becomes a suspect himself.

Farmer George Plants a Nation, Peggy Thomas, paintings by Layne Johnson, \$17.00, Boyds Mills **Grades 3-5**

Picture book for older readers that celebrates George Washington's role, not just as a general and first president, but as a lifelong farmer, who learned all he could about agriculture. With quotes from Washington's diary and letters, this account will inspire young gardeners. An excellent **BIOGRAPHY** choice for Gr. 4-6 **Grade 5 HSS**

☹ *Finding Home*, Sandra Markle, illustrated by Alan Marks, \$16.00, Charlesbridge **Grades K-3**

A mother koala bear and her baby leave their home range after a fire, coming close to the world of humans in their search for a new home. Based on the true story of a koala that survived multiple bushfires and wandered into a residential area. It tells a gripping story of animal survival in dramatic free verse. Illustrated with realistic mixed-media images.

First the Egg, Laura Vaccaro Seeger, \$15.00, Roaring Brook, 2007 **Grades PreK-K**

Die-cut pages show the transformations of various animals and objects. "First the EGG," reads the text on the opening spread, which pictures the egg through an appropriately shaped hole. Next they'll find a fuzzy chick and its adult counterpart. Toward the end, the author extends the concept to a broader sphere, with "First the WORD-then the STORY" bringing the book full circle. **PreK Open Court: Changes**

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Flappers and the New American Women: Perceptions of Women from 1918 Through the 1920s, Catherine Gourley, \$38.00, Century Books **Grades 7+**

Presents a detailed description of the images and issues about women during the 1920s including the changing fashions, fight for equal rights, and the move away from the Victorian image of women. The lively text and images, which include archival photos and reproductions of ads, will easily engage readers with well-chosen facts.

Footwork: the Story of Fred and Adele Astaire, Roxane Orgill, illustrated by Stephane Jorisch, \$18.00, Candlewick, 2007 **Grades 3-5**

Illustrations and easy-to-follow text describe Fred Astaire's humble dancing beginnings and the years he spent dancing with his sister, Adele. "Before Fred was famous, his sister Adele was "the dancer in the family." Orgill describes the team's childhood and early work in vaudeville and on Broadway, also touching on Fred's later achievements in films. Their dancing comes alive in focused prose and softly colored mixed-media art with period details." *Horn Book*

Forever Rose, Hilary McKay, \$17.00, McElderry **Grades 5-7**

"The fifth and final volume about the Casson family, is the best of them all, a jewel of a domestic comedy. Rose, the youngest, is now 11 and occupies an as yet uncharted zone between daft and brilliant. Writing in a diary, she copes with her separated but still doting parents, her talented siblings and the assorted people they collect." *Publisher's Weekly*

Frida: Viva La Vida! Long Live Life!, Carmen Bernier-Grande, \$19.00, Marshall Cavendish, 2007 **Grades 7+**

A collection of free verse poems about the life and work of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, accompanied by reproductions of her paintings. Presents the imagined thoughts and feelings of this artist who was plagued with physical and emotional pain but who still celebrated life. The first-person narrative creates an accessible intimacy. **Open Court: A Question of Value**

Friday My Radio Flyer Flew, Zachary Pullen, \$17.00, Simon & Schuster **Grades PreK-2**

A father and son find an old Radio Flyer wagon when cleaning out the attic and, through the course of a week, turn it back into a wonderful toy. Alliteration moves the story through the week, as in "Wednesday was wet./We had to wait." Full-color spreads are oversize and beautifully done in oil paints. "...affirms the bond between boys and their fathers as well as the power of imagination" *School Library Journal*

☺ *Garmann's Summer*, Stian Hole, \$18.00, Eerdmans **Grades 1-3**

As the summer ends, six-year-old Garmann's three ancient aunts visit and they all talk about the things that scare them. Illustrated with mixed-media collage illustrations, prominently featuring oversize, digitally altered photographs of human heads.

George Washington Carver, Tonya Bolden, \$18.00, Abrams **Grades 4-6**

Outfitted with a great array of sharply reproduced contemporary photos and prints (many in color), plus a generous admixture of Carver's own paintings and botanical illustrations, the narrative takes him from birth (in slavery) to honor-laden old age and death. (*Horn Book*) An excellent **BIOGRAPHY** choice for Gr. 4-6

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☹ *Ghosts in the House!*, Kazuno Kohara, \$17.00, McElderry **Grades PreK-1**

Tired of living in a haunted house, a young witch captures, washes, and turns her pesky ghosts into curtains and a tablecloth. The distinctive art, all orange and black, has the look of woodcuts.

Gibson Girls and Suffragists, Catherine Gourley, \$38.00, Century Books **Grades 7+**

Presents an illustrated history of the images and issues of women in the early part of the twentieth century with specific emphasis on Gibson Girls and the suffragist movement. SERIES REVIEW: "Few reference titles are as user-friendly and as well suited to middle and high school use. Each book addresses stereotypes of femininity. Organized chronologically, the sparkling and engaging texts are generously expanded by numerous, well-placed black-and-white photographs and period reproductions from magazine advertisements, handbills, government propaganda, radio, and television." *School Library Journal*

☹ *The Girl Who Could Fly*, Victoria Forester, \$17.00, Feiwel & Friends **Grades 5-8**

Piper McCloud's ability to fly sets her apart from the other kids, so her mother sends her to an exclusive school for children with exceptional abilities, but even there she does not fit in with the other students. "Best of all are the book's strong, lightly wrapped messages about friendship and authenticity and the difference between doing well and doing good." *Booklist*

☹ *Glitch in Sleep, Bk 1*, John Hulme and Michael Wexler, illustrations by Gideon Kendall, Bloomsbury, 2007 **Grades 4-8**

When twelve-year-old Becker Drane is recruited by The Seems, a parallel universe that runs everything in The World, he must fix a disastrous glitch in the Department of Sleep that threatens the ability of everyone to fall asleep. "This is a rollicking tale, with great world-building and likable characters and a strong setup for further adventures... upbeat and full of humor." *School Library Journal*

Golden Legacy, Leonard S. Marcus, \$40.00, Golden Books, 2007 **All**

Traces the history of the Little Golden Books, discussing how the company, which sold children's books for as little as twenty-five cents, helped improve literacy across America and forever changed twentieth-century American life and culture. Lavishly illustrated, handsomely designed volume.

Good Enough to Eat, Brock Cole, \$16.00, Farrar, 2007 **Grades K-3**

An Ogre comes to town demanding a bride, so the mayor decides to sacrifice a homeless girl with no name whom everyone thinks is a pest; however, she cleverly manages to get the best of both the foul Ogre and the ungrateful townspeople. Vivid writing, incorporating some rhyming verse and some delicious vocabulary, making this a great read aloud choice. Ink and watercolor illustrations.

Goose and Duck, Jean Craighead George, Illustrated by Priscilla Lamont, \$20.00, Laura Geringer, **Grades K-2**

A top-notch easy reader. A boy finds a goose egg that hatches and the gosling imprints on him. Then he finds a duck egg that hatches and the duckling imprints on the goose. What follows is a delightfully sweet case of "monkey see, monkey do" as each bird imitates its "mother."

Notable Books for 2008-2009

All titles are copyright 2008 unless indicated.

☹ *Grumpy Cat*, Britta Teckentrup, \$15.00, Boxer **Grades PreK-1**

A grumpy street cat changes its attitude when a small, abandoned kitten decides to be its friend. “Kitten ignores Cat’s glare, following him about, rolling on her belly, picking her way behind him on a picket fence. Cat climbs a tree to rid himself of his shadow, but Kitten stays right behind. Then, while trying to balance on a thin branch, she slips. What’s a grumpy cat to do? This more than satisfies the requirements for an outstanding picture book for the youngest listeners... the highpoint is the art; graphically inspired, textured, and large in scale, it can be enjoyed from a lap or the back of a room.” *Booklist*

Gully’s Travels, Tor Seidler, illustrations by Brock Cole, \$17.00, Scholastic **Grades 3-6**

A well-bred pampered Lhasa Apso named Gulliver is forced to leave his master and finds a new one named Carlos, the doorman of a Manhattan apartment building, who takes the dog to his place in Queens, where Gully meets low-life mutts and boisterous humans. Told in the third person. Recommended as a READ ALOUD.

☹ *Heavy Equipment up Close*, Andrea Serlin Abramson, \$10.00, Sterling, 2007 **Grades 2-4**

Large, close-up photographs and text describe the parts of various types of construction equipment and earthmoving machinery and the work they do. “...tailor-made for children known to gaze longingly at construction sites. Even preschoolers will enjoy the photos, so like toys come to life, but children who can read on their own, or sit still through each page’s several paragraphs of text, will get the most out of the book’s terrific mix of fun technical vocabulary and trivia ripe for sharing.” *Booklist*

Helen’s Eyes: a Photobiography of Annie Sullivan, Helen Keller’s Teacher, Marfe Ferguson Delano, \$18.00, National Geographic **Grades 4-6**

Photographs, illustrations, and text chronicle the life of Helen Keller’s tutor, Annie Sullivan. It is honest in its portrayals, especially of Sullivan, who could be quick to take offense, particularly when her role as Keller’s teacher was downplayed.

☹ *Hello, Day!*, Anita Lobel, HarperCollins **Grades PreK-K**

A variety of barnyard animals greet the sunrise in their own unique voices, except for the owl who welcomes the night. Softly hued mixed-media illustrations rendered in marker, pencil, colored pencil, watercolor, and gouache, make this simple book an appealing trip through a pleasant day. “This is a book that lends itself to early childhood literacy programs, as well as toddler and lap-sitting storytimes; put it on a read-aloud shelf and watch it become a favorite participation story for little listeners.” *Booklist*

Highway Cats, Janet Taylor Lisle, \$15.00, Philomel **Grades 4-6**

A hard-bitten group of mangy feral highway cats is changed forever after the mysterious arrival of three kittens abandoned on the median strip of an interstate highway. The kittens help them to band together to save their small patch of homeland woods from being destroyed.

Honeybee: Poems and Short Prose, Naomi Shihab Nye, \$18.00, Greenwillow, **Grades 5-7**

A collection of poems and short prose pieces in which Naomi Shihab Nye reflects on the topics that are most important to people, including love, memories, war, and the planet. Buzzing, industrious honeybees inspire the recurring metaphors in her writing.

Notable Books for 2008-2009

All titles are copyright 2008 unless indicated.

☹ *Horse Song: The Naadam of Mongolia*, Ted Lewin, \$10.00, Lee & Low **Grades 2-6**

Ted and Betsy Lewin describe the landscapes, people, and activities they encounter during a trip to Mongolia for Naadam, the annual summer festival where child jockeys ride half-wild horses for miles across the Mongolian steppe. Provides a dynamic view of a culture rarely portrayed in children's books and an event that is sure to interest many young readers.

The House In The Night, Susan Marie Swanson, pictures by Beth Krommes, \$16.00, Houghton **Grades PreK-1**

Illustrations and simple cumulative text explore the light that makes a house in the night a home filled with light. The art is spectacular, executed in scratchboard decorated in droplets of gold. "This picture book will make a strong impression on listeners making their first acquaintance with literature. It is a masterpiece that has all the hallmarks of a classic that will be loved for generations to come." *School Library Journal*

How I Learned Geography, Uri Shulevitz, \$17.00, Farrar **Grades 3-6**

A boy and his parents flee Poland in 1939 and travel to Turkistan where they live in one room in a house with strangers. When the boy's father returns from the bazaar with a huge map instead of bread to feed his family, his wife and son are furious. The boy becomes fascinated by the details of the map and by using his imagination he transports himself to all of the exotic-sounding places. Folk-style illustrations in collage, watercolor, and ink, combined with the brief text, create a perfectly paced story. **Grade 3 HSS 3.1**

☹ *How Many Ways Can you Catch a Fly?*, Steve Jenkins & Robin Page, \$16.00, Houghton **Gr K-3**

Looks at how different animals, such as a rainbow trout, chimney swift, and slender loris, approach the challenges of catching flies, digging holes, eating clams, and hatching eggs. This is about the food chain and is illustrated with clear images in cut- and torn-paper collage. Each double-page spread shows detailed species close up, as well as the connections between animals. **Grade 2 Science**

How to Get Rich in the California Gold Rush: an Adventurer's Guide to the Fabulous Riches Discovered in 1848, Tod Olson, illustrated by Scott Allred, \$17.00, National Geographic **Gr 4-6**

Blends story with history to give readers an understanding of a gold rush and to provide a lighthearted and engaging entry point into frontier life. The story is a fictional account of the adventures and experiences of young Thomas Hartley, as he and his two companions set off in 1850 for the California gold fields. Illustrated with period lithographs and original artwork. **Open Court: A Changing America and Grade 4 SS**

How to Heal a Broken Wing, Bob Graham, \$17.00, Candlewick **Grades K-2**

Quietly, effectively, Graham tells the simple story of a boy who lives in the city and finds a fallen bird and nurses it back to health. **Open Court: City Wildlife, Open Court: Kindness**

Notable Books for 2008-2009

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How We Know What We Know About Our Changing Climate, Lynne Cherry, \$18.00, Dawn Publications **Grades 4-8**

Describes how and where scientists find evidence of climate change, including bird migration patterns, checking tree rings, and collecting mud cores; and offers advice to students on how to make a positive impact on the environment. Small color photographs show the fieldwork and experiments of scientists and students. The authors note ways in which students can have a positive impact by making personal choices and influencing public policy. **Open Court: Ecology**

☺ *I Love My New Toy!*, Mo Willems, \$9.00, Hyperion **Grades K-2**

Gerald and Piggie have a misunderstanding over Piggie's new toy, but soon realize friends are more fun to play with than toys. "There is plenty of opportunity for new readers to learn useful words like sad and mad, but the charm comes in the way Willems captures the emotions of young children, sometimes with a line of dialogue ("You broke it!"), and sometimes with an artful drawn line that says as much as words." *Booklist* **Open Court: Finding Friends**

☺ *I Will Surprise My Friend!*, Mo Willems, \$9.00, Hyperion **Grades K-2**

Gerald the elephant and Piggie, who are best friends, play a game to surprise each other by a big rock and their fun takes a strange turn when Gerald gets worried. "As always in this series, the combination of simple text and mischievous art will satisfy beginning readers and leave them eager to polish their skills and move toward more challenging books." *Booklist* **Open Court: Finding Friends**

☺ *I, Matthew Henson: Polar Explorer*, Carole Boston Weatherford, Walker **Grades 2-5**

"Spare, poetic language tells the story of Matthew Henson in a picture-book account of the explorer's life and accomplishments. The book reveals the extreme hardships he and Robert Peary faced: frigid cold, frozen waters, frostbite, harsh winds, and lack of food or funds." *School Library Journal* **Open Court: Journeys and Quests**

I'm Bad!, Kate McMullan, \$17.00, HarperCollins **Grades PreK-2**

A hungry Tyrannosaurus rex searches for food in the prehistoric forest but is thwarted in its attempts to find something to eat. Its attempts at catching prey are repeatedly-and hilariously-foiled. Includes a vertical fold-out page that when lifted reveals the reptile's even bigger mother. Vibrant artwork done in bold colors.

In a Blue Room, Jim Averbeck, illustrated by Trica Tusa., \$20.00, Harcourt **Grades PreK-1**

"Alice is firm in her desire to sleep only in a room that's blue, so when Mama brings in violets and lilywhites, Alice protests—until she sniffs them. And even though the tea is orange, a sip makes her drowsy, and the green quilt is comfy and warm. It's not until the lights are off and moonlight bathes everything in blue that Alice gets her wish. ... The ink, watercolor, and gouache artwork keeps its eye on Alice while incorporating whimsy and suffusing the pictures with love." *Booklist*

Notable Books for 2008-2009

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Into the Volcano: A Graphic Novel, Don Wood, \$18.00, Scholastic **Grades 4-6**

While their parents are away doing research, brothers Duffy and Sumo Pugg go with their cousin, Mister Come-and-Go, to Kokalaha Island, where they meet Aunt Lulu and become trapped in an erupting volcano. The artwork is suited to the story with bold lines, dramatic colors, and creative special effects.

Jimmy's Stars, Mary Ann Rodman, \$17.00, Farrar **Grades 4-6**

“In this beautifully crafted story about World War II on the home front, 11-year-old Ellie is terrified of losing her beloved brother Jimmy when he is drafted and the family hangs a blue star service flag for him. When word comes of Jimmy's heroic death, she refuses to give up hope that he will return from the war. Readers will find this emotionally gripping story of love and loss profoundly moving.” *Kirkus*

☹ *Julia Gillian: (and The Art of Knowing)*, Alison McGhee, pictures by Drazen Kozjan, Scholastic **Grades 2-5**

Nine-year-old Julia Gillian learns a lot about facing fear as she and her St. Bernard, Bigfoot, take long walks through their Minneapolis neighborhood one hot summer, and she seeks the courage to finish a book that could have an unhappy ending. **Open Court: Courage**

☹ *Jumpy Jack and Googily*, Meg Rosoff, illustrations by Sophie Blackall, Holt **Grades PreK-2**

Jumpy Jack the snail is terrified that there are monsters around every corner despite the reassurances of his best friend, Googily. The joke is that Googily is a monster himself, a fact that goes unnoticed by both. **Open Court: Being Afraid**

☹ *Keeping the Night Watch*, Hope Anita Smith, illustrations by E.B. Lewis, Holt **Grades 5-8**

A thirteen-year-old African American boy chronicles what happens to his family when his father, who temporarily left, returns home and they all must deal with their feelings of anger, hope, abandonment, and fear. This book touches on themes often studied in school: family, independence, struggle, and responsibility.

A Kitten Tale, Eric Rohmann, \$16.00, Knopf **Grades PreK-2**

As four kittens who have never seen winter watch the seasons pass, three of them declare the reasons they will dislike snow when it arrives, while the fourth cannot wait to experience it for himself. “Beautifully illustrated, with Rohmann's signature strong black lines framing the action and outlining the characters, the leaves, and the windowpanes, this playful look at living life to the fullest is a natural for young children.” *School Library Journal* **Open Court: Weather**

☹ *Knights of the Lunch Table. 1, The Dodgeball Chronicles* (Graphic Novel), Frank Cammuso, Scholastic **Grades 2-4**

Artie King's hopes for easing into life at Camelot Middle School are dashed when he opens mysterious locker filled with useful, wonderful items and is pulled into a do-or-die dodgeball game that pits Artie and his friends against the school's toughest kids. This is a tongue-in-cheek take on the school rules and games that can dominate a kid's life.

Notable Books for 2008-2009

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Knucklehead – Tall Tales and Almost True Stories of Growing Up, Jon Scieszka, \$17.00, Viking
Grades 3-6

Scieszka, who grew up as the second of six sons, has written an autobiography about boys, for boys and anyone else interested in baseball, fire, and peeing on stuff. The format of the book is perfectly suited to both casual and reluctant readers. Family photographs and other period illustrations appear throughout. Use as a spirited read aloud for those few minutes before dismissal. Highly recommended.

Lady Liberty: A Biography, Doreen Rappaport, \$18.00, Candlewick **Grades 2-5**

Handsome, well researched picture book tells the story of the statue from conception to dedication from the points of view of the many different players in Liberty's dramatic life. Beginning with the author imagining how her Latvian grandfather felt when he first spied "her," the presentation ends with several quotes from other European immigrants, describing their thoughts as "The Lady" welcomed them to America. (*Horn Book*) **Open Court: Our Country and Its People, Grade 3 HSS 3.4.3**

Laika, Nick Abadzis, color by Hilary Sycamore, \$24.00, Roaring Book **Grades 7+**

A Samoyed-Husky mutt caught off the streets and put into the Russian space program, Laika became the first being to leave Earth's orbit, inside the Sputnik 2 satellite. The plan was only to monitor her in her few hours of life, though, not to bring her home-a sacrifice for which one of the scientists later expressed deep regret. A three Kleenex book. Graphic novel.

☺ *Leanin' Dog*, K.A. Nazum, \$19.00, HarperCollins **Grades 4-6**

Eleven-year-old Dessa Dean, mourning the death of her mother, finds an injured dog on her porch, which allows both Dessa and the dog to heal together with a friendship that shapes both of their lives.

Lenny's Space, Kate Banks, Farrar, 2007 **Grades 3-6**

Nine-year-old Lenny who is academically brilliant but emotionally stunted, gets in trouble and has no friends because he cannot control himself in school and his interests are not like those of his classmates. When he starts visiting Muriel, a counselor, and meets Van, a boy his age who has leukemia, things begin to change. "This novel is just right for booktalking and for giving children the opportunity to develop empathy right along with Lenny. A small gem not to be missed." *School Library Journal*

☺ *Let it Begin Here: April 19, 1775, the Day the American Revolution Began*, Don Brown, \$18.00, Roaring Brook **Grades 3-5**

The complex story of the causes and beginning of the Revolutionary War is introduced in an age appropriate and understandable manner. Describes the many skirmishes that broke out around the colonies and liberally applies quotes from various officers and regulars alike. Illustrated with watercolor artwork.

Notable Books for 2008-2009

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☺ *Life on Earth – and Beyond: An Astrobiologist's Quest*, Pamela S. Turner, \$20.00, Charlesbridge
Grades 5-7

Examines astrobiologist Dr. Chris McKay's efforts to prove that life does exist beyond Earth, with behind-the-scenes photographs capturing McKay and his research team at work studying microbes that live beyond all odds and trying to determine if they can thrive in space. Illustrated with many excellent color photos and other images, the book concludes with Turner's note on her research, as well as lists of recommended books, movies, and Internet resources. This beautifully designed volume offers an eye-opening look at an astrobiologist in action.

The Light of the World: The Life of Jesus for Children, Katherine Paterson, illustrated by Francois Roca, \$18.00, Scholastic **Grades 1-3**

Tells the story of Jesus' life from his birth in Bethlehem to his crucifixion and resurrection, and describes his teachings, explaining why he is called "the light of the world." The well-expressed narrative is accompanied by lush luminous portraits painted in subtle earth tones that evoke the ancient atmosphere of biblical society.

Lincoln Shot: a President's Life Remembered, Barry Denenberg, illustrated by Christopher Bing, \$27.00, Feiwel & Friends **Grades 5+**

A biography of Abraham Lincoln presented in the form of a scrapbook dated one year after his assassination, with faux newspaper clippings and accounts of Lincoln's childhood, marriage, presidency, Civil War leadership, and shooting, as well as the capture and execution of the conspirators involved in his death.

The Lincolns: a Scrapbook Look at Abraham & Mary, Candace Fleming, \$24.00, Swartz & Wade
Grades 5+

A dual biography of Abraham Lincoln and his wife, Mary, using photographs, letters, engravings, and cartoons to look at their childhoods, courtship, marriage, children, and other joys and traumas of their years together including their deaths.

☺ *Listen, Listen*, Phillis Gershator, illustrated by Alison Jay, \$17.00, Barefoot, 2007 **PreK-3**

"Rhyming text describes the sounds of each season. Readers are invited to listen to the whistle of the finch in springtime and the plop of acorns dropping in the fall...the simple, evocative rhyming text is paired with crackled paintings that are striking, giving readers much to pore over." *Horn Book & Booklist*

Little Audrey, Ruth White, \$16.00, Farrar **Grades 5-8**

In 1948, eleven-year-old Audrey lives with her father, mother, and three younger sisters in Jewell Valley, a coal mining camp in Southwest Virginia, where her mother still mourns the death of a baby, her father goes on drinking binges on payday, and Audrey tries to recover from the scarlet fever that has left her skinny and needing to wear glasses.

Notable Books for 2008-2009

All titles are copyright 2008 unless indicated.

Little Beauty, Anthony Browne, \$17.00, Candlewick **Grades K-3**

A gorilla is seated in a floral armchair watching TV with his mug of tea and a hamburger. The ape's human keepers have taught him sign language, and when he signs that he is lonely, they give him a small white kitten. He names her Beauty, and the two bond in bliss. A King Kong movie on TV causes a momentary incident that is resolved happily. Outstanding artwork in Browne's signature style, this will be a great accompaniment to *Koko's Kitten*.

Open Court: Friendship; Open Court: Communication

Little Mouse's Big Book of Fears, Emily Gravett, \$18.00, Simon & Schuster **Grades K-4**

Little Mouse draws pictures of some of the many things of which he is afraid, including creepy crawlies, sharp knives, and having accidents, and provides the correct scientific name for each of his fears. Creative multimedia artwork includes collage, foldouts, cutouts, and expressive and pencil strokes. **Open Court: Being Afraid**

☺ *Little Rabbit's New Baby*, Harry Horse, Peachtree **Grades PreK-1**

Little Rabbit has looked forward to becoming a big brother, but when Mama brings home triplets, he quickly realizes that babies are not much fun and begins to resent them because his parents pay so much attention to them. "The pen-and-ink and watercolor illustrations are filled in with a myriad of intricately drawn details of the bunny family and their cozy home. With everything outlined in black ink and filled in soft hues, the pictures are replete with humorous vignettes and charming, active, diaper-clad babies. A delightful addition." *School Library Journal*

☺ *The London Eye Mystery*, Siobhan Dowd, \$16.00, Random **Grades 5-8**

When Ted and Kat's cousin Salim disappears from the London Eye Ferris wheel, the two siblings must work together to try to solve the mystery of what happened to Salim. "Suggest this as a read-alike to fans of Blue Balliett's *Chasing Vermeer* (Scholastic 2004) or Lauren Tarshis's *Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell Out of a Tree* (Dial, 200)." *School Library Journal*

☺ *Madam President*, Lane Smith, \$17.00, Hyperion **Grades K-3**

A precocious young girl walks readers through a typical day as she imagines what it would be like being president. Her first executive order is for waffles. She then negotiates a treaty between a cat and dog and appoints a toy cabinet. She continues attending to her duties through the day. Illustrated in a style reminiscent of the 60's using mixed media with digital and hand-painted scenes as well as collage. "As in Smith's other spoofs, this book blends message with medium for maximum delight." *School Library Journal*

☺ *Magic Pickle* (Graphic Novel), Scott Morse, with color by Jose Garibaldi, \$10.00, Scholastic **Grades 2-4**

The Magic Pickle, a secret weapon created in a special lab under the floor of Jo Jo Wigman's bedroom, and Jo Jo set out to stop the Brotherhood of the Evil Produce. Presented in graphic novel form.

Notable Books for 2008-2009

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The Magic Thief, Sarah Prineas, illustrations by Antonio Javier Caparo, \$18.00, HarperCollins
Grades 5-8

Conn's life is forever changed when he tries to pick the pocket of the wizard Nevery and instead gets a strong jolt of magic, but, instead of punishing the boy, Nevery takes Conn under his wing, teaches him magic, and enlists his help in finding the person responsible for stealing the city's dwindling magic supply.

Mail Harry to the Moon!, Robbie H. Harris, \$17.00, Little, Brown **Grades PreK-1**

Harry's older brother, unhappy that the new baby is making lots of noise and getting all the attention, thinks up creative ways to get rid of him. To restore order to his once peaceful household, the boy suggests a variety of solutions including mail Harry to the moon. This story will have broad appeal for those with or without a new baby in the family.

Manfish: The Story of Jacques Cousteau, Jennifer Berne, illustrated by Eric Puybaret, \$17.00, Chronicle **Grades K-3**

An illustrated biography of Jacques Cousteau, discussing how his youthful fascinations with filming and underwater exploration translated into his life's work, and telling of his later devotion to saving the ocean environment. Written in simple poetic language, both lyrical and concise and illustrated with smooth acrylic paintings. **Open Court: Ecology**

March On! The Day my Brother Martin Changed the World, by Christine King Farris, illustrated by London Ladd, \$17.00, Scholastic **Grades 2-5**

Told from the perspective of Christine King Farris who describes how her brother, Martin Luther King, Jr., prepared for his legendary "I Have a Dream" speech in Washington, D.C. She provides background about the organization of the march, a look at key events of the day, and insight into how King crafted the speech. Acrylic paintings are an excellent accompaniment to the text.

Marco Polo, Demi, \$19.00, Cavendish **Grades 4-6**

An illustrated biography of the thirteenth-century Venetian merchant and explorer who spent twenty-five years in Asia and befriended Kublai Khan. Includes a much shorter text than last year's offering by Russell Freedman, though there is still quite a lot of detail about his incredible 24-year world journey over 33,000 miles. The illustrations are painted with Chinese inks and gold overlays. **Open Court: Ancient Civilizations and Grade 6 HSS**

Market Day, Carol Foskett Cordsen, illustrated by Douglas B. Jones \$17.00, Dutton **Grades K-3**

The Benson family is so busy preparing for their day at a farmers' market that they not only forget to feed the cow, they leave the farmyard gate open and the hungry cow follows them, making a mess of the market. The retro-style illustrations transport readers to a simpler time in a rural setting. **Open Court: Country Life, Grade 2 HSS 2.1**

☺ *Mattland*, Hazel Hutchins and Gail Herbert, art by Dusan Petricic, Annick **Grades K-3**

"Surrounded by an uninspiring landscape and lacking friends, Matt begins to poke at the mud outside his house. He quickly notices in his marks the beginning of a landscape. Bit by bit, a miniature world unfolds before Matt and readers, assisted by the timid offerings of neighborhood children. When a rainstorm threatens to flood the newly created "Mattland," helping hands appear to route the current safely away... The illustrator skillfully leads

Notable Books for 2008-2009

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readers from gray, nondescript images to a detailed world brimming with color.” *School Library Journal*

Maybe a Bear Ate It! Robie H. Harris, illustrated by Michael Emberley, \$16.00, Orchard **PreK-2**

At bedtime, a young boy who cannot find his favorite book imagines the various creatures that might have taken it from him. The art is the story, with just a few well-chosen words to emphasize or clarify what’s happening in the pictures. There is an unspoken message about not jumping to conclusions and taking responsibility for one's belongings. **Open Court: Sharing Stories**

Me Hungry!, Jeremy Tankard, \$16.00, Candlewick **Grades PreK-K**

A little prehistoric boy announces “Me hungry” and hears the answer “Me busy.” So, he decides to hunt for his own food, and makes a new friend in the process. The text is matched by simple illustrations, which picture only the characters and a large stone or two, all set against brightly colored backgrounds.

Monarch and Milkweed, Helen Frost, \$18.00, Atheneum **Grades 1-4**

Clearly shows the interconnected life cycles of the monarch butterfly and the milkweed plant and gives equal attention to both. The text invites readers to consider the whole environment rather than simply one part of it. The whimsical pastel-and-acrylic illustrations are textured and provide detailed views of the milkweed plant as well as the butterfly. **Open Court: Kindness and Grade 2 Science**

Monkey and Me, Emily Gravett, Emily, \$16.00, S&S **PreK-K**

A little girl and her stuffed animal, a monkey, cavort as she imagines and imitates a series of wild animals. The girl’s actions as she pretends to be each new beast can give rise to a guessing game for children, resolved when a turn of the page shows the actual animal mimicked. Told with rhythmic, patterned text and highlighted with expressive pencil drawings with some watercolor washes added. **PreK Open Court: I Am Special**

Mr. Lincoln’s Boys: Being the Mostly True Adventures of Abraham Lincoln’s Trouble-Making Sons, Tad and Willie, Staton Rabin, illustrated by Bagram Ibatoulline, \$17.00, Viking **Grades 1-4**

A well illustrated story that introduces the two sons of Lincoln, recounting the adventures as they scampered around the White House surprising and irritating almost everyone. Also highlights how their pranks delighted their father who was facing the grim realities of the Civil War. The illustrations are detailed, sepia-tone period scenes, with excellent likenesses of Lincoln and other historical figures drawn from contemporary photos and prints. **Gr 2 HSS**

My Name is Gabito/Me Llamo Gabito: The Life of Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Monica Brown, illustrated by Raul Colon, \$16.00, Luna Rising **Grades 2-4**

A beautifully illustrated picture book celebrates the creativity of writer Gabriel García Márquez highlighting what he saw and heard as a boy and how it became part of the books he wrote as an adult. The lyrical text introduces the boy as Gabito, who views the world as a magical place and, though he sees the poverty in his Colombian town, also imagines a world full of wonders and tells his tales to others. The book concludes that he grew up to be a great storyteller. Illustrated with Colon’s signature artwork that glows with rich color.

Notable Books for 2008-2009

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☹ *My One Hundred Adventures*, Polly Horvath, \$20.00, Random **Grades 4-6**

Twelve-year-old Jane, who lives at the beach in a run-down old house with her mother, two brothers, and sister, has an eventful summer accompanying her pastor on Bible deliveries, meeting former boyfriends of her mother's, and being coerced into babysitting for a family of ill-mannered children. "Jane's poetic, philosophical musings capture a child's logic with an adult voice in this witty, wise and wonderful novel." *Kirkus*

Nic Bishop Frogs, Nic Bishop, \$18.00, Scholastic **Grades 2-4**

Large, striking photos illustrate a clearly written discussion of the physical characteristics and habits of frogs. The color photographs of frogs from around the world enhance the text. One dual-foldout spread carries a stop-action scene showing five stages of a frog's motion as it leaps into the air and dives into water. An author's note gives insight into both Bishop's enthusiasm and the painstaking techniques behind the spectacular images. **Grade 2 HSS**

Nic Bishop Spiders, Nic Bishop, \$17.00, Scholastic **Grades 2-4**

Much different from the usual sweet spider story, this photo-rich picture book is packed with astonishing facts about these highly successful predators. "One of the first photos is of the biggest known spider, the Goliath bird-eater tarantula from South America, which is as big as a page in this large-size book. Whether it's the hairs on a spider's legs that sense touch or the gruesome stuff about how spiders turn their preys' insides into soup, the details are riveting." *Booklist*

☹ *Nick of Time*, Ted Bell, St. Martin's **Grades 5-8**

Twelve-year-old Nick McIver tries to help his father and sister send vital information to England about imminent Nazi invasion, until he finds himself transported through time to help his ancestor stop a mutinous captain. "With great battle scenes; lots of nautical jargon; and themes of courage, integrity, and honor, this book will appeal to restless boys who can never find books written just for them. Three huzzahs and a great big 21-gun salute to Bell for his first novel for kids. Hopefully, it won't be his last." *School Library Journal*

Night of the Moon, Hena Khan, illustrated by Julie Paschkis, \$17.00, Chronicle **Grades 2-4**

Yasmeen has a wonderful time celebrating the Muslim holy month of Ramadan with her family and friends. Activities include a special dinner at sunset with the family. During the following week her family prepares food to be distributed at a mosque. Paintings incorporate Islamic tile art, adding to an authentic sense of the culture. **Open Court: Our Country and Its People**

Night Running: How James Escaped With the Help of His Faithful Dog, Elisa Carbone, illustrated by E.B. Lewis, \$17.00, Knopf **Grades 3-5**

Skillful storytelling captures the heroics of a boy and his faithful hunting dog in search of freedom. The story begins in 1838 when James Smith leaves behind his life as a slave on a farm in Virginia. He does not plan to take his dog, Zeus because he's "always hungry" and too noisy. However, the hound is persistent – a good thing since he saves James's life more than once. Based on a true story. (*School Library Journal*) **Open Court: Risks and**

Notable Books for 2008-2009

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☹ *Old Bear*, Kevin Henkes, \$19.00, Greenwillow **Grades PreK-K**

When Old Bear falls asleep for the winter, he has a dream that he is a cub again, enjoying each of the four seasons. “Henkes has created a thoroughly delightful character filled with curiosity and sweetness and placed him in a simple tale that unfolds with a natural, rhythmical pace... the artist provides autumnal front endpapers and contrasting vernal back endpapers. Opportunities to introduce the seasons, colors, and animal hibernation abound.” *School Library Journal*

On the Farm, David Elliott, illustrated by Holly Meade, \$17.00, Candlewick **PreK-1**

Describes all the animals of the farmyard, including a goat, a cow, a rooster, bees, and bunnies, presented in verse and accompanied by woodcut and watercolor illustrations. “This handsome poetry collection feels as hearty and comforting as a bowl of sugared porridge and will make an unusually interesting choice for farm-animal storytimes.” *Booklist* **PreK Open Court: At the Farm**

☹ *Once Upon a Time in the North*, Philip Pullman, Illus. by John Lawrence \$13.00, Knopf **Gr 7+**

Prequel to: *The Golden Compass*. Includes a board game 'Peril of the pole' in an envelope attached to the back cover. In a time before Lyra Silvertongue was born, the tough American balloonist Lee Scoresby and the great armored bear Iorek Byrnison meet when Lee and his hare daemon Hester crash-land their trading balloon onto a port in the far Arctic North and find themselves right in the middle of a political powder keg.

One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference Katie Smith Milway, illustrated by Eugenie Fernandes, \$19.00, Kids Can Press **Grades 2-5**

Tells the story of Kojo, a boy from Ghana who turns a small loan into a thriving business. After quitting school to help his mother collect firewood, she gives him a small sum of money. With this loan Kojo buys a hen and within one year he has 25 hens and is able to return to school. Inspired by a true story of a young man who began his poultry farm with a small loan and it is now the largest poultry farm in East Africa. **Open Court: Dollars and Sense; Open Court: Risks and Consequences, Grade 2 HSS 2.4**

Ottoline and the Yellow Cat, Chris Riddell, \$11.00, HarperCollins **Grades 2-4**

“Ottoline and her guardian (a small, hairy creature from a bog in Norway) stumble upon a missing pet mystery. They investigate and solve the crime. The text is enhanced by striking black-and-white illustrations, with judicious splashes of red, that tell much of the story while displaying Ottoline's genteel daily life. Readers will appreciate the heroine's independence and guile.” *Hornbook*

☹ *Otto's Orange Day: a Toon Book* (Graphic Novel), Frank Cammuso, (drawn by) & written by Jay Lynch \$13.00, RawJunior/Toon **Grades 1-3**

A takeoff on King Midas. Young Otto loves orange so much that when a sly genie rises up out of an old lamp he receives from Aunt Sally Lee, he uses his one wish to turn all the world that color. His ensuing bliss changes to blues, though, after he gets a gander at his orange lunch and then sees what happens on the street when every traffic light is the same color. “Offer this to book readers with a bit of experience under their belts and an interest in comics and cartoons.” *School Library Journal*

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Our Farm: Four Seasons with Five Kids on One Family's Farm, Michael J. Rosen, \$19.00, Darby Creek **Grades 3-6**

Through this photographic journal, readers are invited to share one year on an Ohio farm, complete with children, animals, and enough work, adventure, and fun to keep everyone busy. Packed with information and plenty of interesting photographs. **Open Court: Country Life**

Our White House: Looking In, Looking Out, with an introduction by David McCullough, \$30.00, Candlewick, 2007 **Grades 4-8**

A collection of essays, personal accounts, historical fiction, and poetry that traces the history of the White House through the eyes of the children who have lived and visited there. Created by 108 renowned authors and illustrators and the National Children's Book and Literacy Alliance artwork this book is beautifully reproduced on glossy paper, and is particularly striking.

Owney the Mail-Pouch Pooch, Mona Kerby, Mona, pictures by Lynne Barasch, \$17.00, Farrar **Grades 1-4**

This the true story of Owney, a stray dog who finds a home in a New York post office and becomes its official mascot as he rides the mail train through the Adirondacks and beyond, criss-crossing the United States, into Canada and Mexico, and eventually traveling around the world by mail boat in 132 days. Ink and watercolor illustrations are paired with sepia-toned photographs. It is sure to develop a loyal following among lovers of dog stories.

☹ *Painting the Wild Frontier: the Art and Adventures of George Catlin*, Susanna Reich, \$21.00, Clarion **Grades 5-8**

Letters, recollections, and archival prints and photographs recount the experiences artist George Catlin had traveling through the American wilderness studying and painting Native American tribes. Many of his paintings illustrate the text and add to a sense of excitement. "This is an excellent choice for libraries looking for good biographies, either for reports or pleasure reading." *School Library Journal* **Grade 5 HSS 5.8**

Pale Male: Citizen Hawk of New York City, Janet Schulman, illustrated by Meilo So, \$17.00, Knopf **Grades 3-6**

Recounts the true story of Pale Male, a red-tailed hawk living in New York City who has become one of the city's most-watched celebrities and bird watchers, tourists, and residents admire the bird and his nest, built on a Fifth Avenue apartment building. "...readers experience New Yorkers' excitement about Pale Male and his various mates and their offspring and understand why his story has captured the interest of so many people." *School Library Journal* **Open Court: City Wildlife**

Paleo Bugs: Survival of the Creepiest, Timothy J. Brandley, \$16.00, Chronicle **Grades 3-7**

Contains illustrations and descriptions of selected prehistoric insects, based on fossil evidence, and looks at their modern-day counterparts. Brandley decks out each of his painted figures in bright hues, poses them in natural settings—usually crawling or swimming directly toward the viewer—and sets them aside a human hand or body in silhouette to suggest scale.

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The Penderwicks on Gardam Street, Jeanne Birdsall, illustrations by David Frankland, \$16.00, Knopf **Grades 4-7**

The four Penderwick sisters are faced with the unimaginable prospect of their widowed father dating, and they hatch a plot to stop him. “The solution to the dating dilemma may be obvious to readers from the outset, but no matter: Birdsall again delivers genuinely funny scenes and tender moments between father and daughters. The Penderwicks are fully fleshed-out characters who deserve a happily-ever-after ending.” *Horn Book*

☺ *Pharaoh: Life and Afterlife of a God*, David Kennett, \$20.00, Walker **Grades 4-6**

An account of the lives of Egyptian pharaohs Seti I and his son, Ramesses II, looking at the civilizations they created, and discussing the preparations they made for their deaths and burials. A handsome book that delves into the various roles of the pharaoh, and gives readers a full understanding of Egyptian life. **Open Court: Ancient Civilizations, Grade 6 HSS 6.2**

Piano Starts Here: The Young Art Tatum, Robert Andrew Parker, \$17.00, Schwartz & Wade **Gr 2-4**

Explores early nineteenth-century jazz pianist and virtuoso Art Tatum's passion and talent for playing the instrument, and includes illustrations and biographical information. Illustrated in a style of scratched ink lines and watercolor washes. Showcase this book with titles about other jazz greats and plenty of music. **Open Court: Beyond the Notes**

☺ *The Pigeon Wants a Puppy*, Mo Willems, Hyperion **PreK-3**

The pigeon really, really wants a puppy, and he wants it NOW. He even promises to take care of it: “I’ll water it once a month.” But when a puppy arrives the pigeon changes its mind. “Willems's hilariously expressive illustrations and engaging text are cinematic in their interplay. Maybe kids won't appreciate the genius behind it the way adults will, but that won't stop them from asking for this book again and again” *School Library Journal*

Planting the Trees of Kenya, Claire A. Nivola, \$17.00, Farrar **Grades 3-6**

Relates the story of Wangari Maathai, a native Kenyan who taught the people living in the highlands how to plant trees and care for the land. A beautiful picture-book biography that brings the powerful simplicity of her message with direct prose and bright watercolors. Nivola makes children feel it is possible for anyone to change the course of history if they set their mind to it. **Open Court: Ecology**

☺ *The Porcupine Year*, Louise Erdrich, \$17.00, HarperCollins **Grades 5-8**

Sequel to *The Birchbark House* and *The Game of Silence*. Twelve-year-old Omakayas, an Ojibwe girl, draws strength from the land and spirits as she and her family endures numerous hardships in their search for a new home in northern Minnesota in 1852. “While the novel can stand alone, it will call new readers to catch up on the first two installments. Erdrich's charming pencil drawings interspersed throughout and her glossary of Ojibwe terms round out a beautiful offering.” *School Library Journal*

☺ *Porcupine*, Meg Tilly, Tundra **Grades 5-8**

After her father is killed in Afghanistan, twelve-year-old tomboy Jack Cooper and her siblings find themselves moving across the country to live on their great-grandmother's run-down farm, where Jack puts on a brave face to help her brother and sister adjust to their new lives. “What distinguishes this familiar story of super-responsible eldest child and crotchety elderly relative is Jack's appreciation for the world around her.” *School Library Journal*

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The Prince Won't Go to Bed!, Dayle Ann Dodds, pictures by Kyrsten Brooker, Farrar **PreK-1**

When the young prince refuses to go to bed, assorted members of the royal household offer their ideas on exactly what he needs. Round and round they go until the prince's older sister solves the problem by giving her brother a goodnight kiss. "This story is laugh-out-loud funny for children who know full well that they put their own parents through this nightly ordeal. Told with bright and playful language and a hearty helping of rhyme the text is perfect for reading aloud." *School Library Journal*

The Puzzling World of Winston Breen, Eric Berlin, \$17.00, Putnam **Grades 4-6**

Winston Breen loves solving puzzles; and when his sister uncovers a twenty-five-year-old scavenger hunt, which leads to a ring worth thousands of dollars, he and his family jump at the opportunity to solve it. "There is plenty of suspense to engage readers, who are sure to enjoy tackling the brainteasers and word games along the way. A note sends readers to a Web site to download printable versions of the puzzles. Answers are included at the end of the book." *School Library Journal*

Red Truck, Kersten Hamilton, illustrated by Valeria Petrone, \$16.00, Viking **Grades PreK-2**

When a bright yellow school bus loaded with children becomes stranded on a hill in the mud, the driver phones for help. A vibrantly red tow truck and its mustached driver make their way through the slippery streets to come to the rescue... and saves the day by pulling the bus out of the mud. **Open Court: Things That Go**

Rex Zero, King of Nothing, Tim Wynne-Jones, \$17.00, Farrar **Grades 5-8**

Sequel to: *Rex Zero and the End of the World*. Rex-Norton-Norton, an eleven-year-old boy living in Ottawa in 1962, faces several confusing mysteries, including his father's troubling secrets from World War II, the problems of a beautiful but unhappy woman named Natasha, what to do about his mean and vindictive teacher, and whether or not he should even be concerned about such things.

Roadwork, Sally Sutton, illustrated by Brian Lovelock, \$16.00, Candlewick **Grades PreK-K**

Rhyming text and illustrations show how a road is made, from planning to moving dirt, laying asphalt, putting up signs, and landscaping. Illustrated with bright, uncluttered ink pictures of the vehicles, their drivers (including a few women), and the community that enjoys the finished road. **Open Court: Things that Go**

Rosie and Mrs. America: Perceptions of Women in the 1930s and 1940s, Catherine Gourley, \$38.00, Century Books **Grades 7+**

Explores how images in the media, including magazine advertisements and mail order catalogs, influenced how women saw themselves and helped them to be both fashionable and frugal in the 1930s and 1940s. "With their wonderful use of primary-source information and documentation, these books are great for research or browsing, and they are sure to pique readers' interest in the history of gender in this country." *School Library Journal*

The Ruby Key, Holly Lisle, Orchard **Grades 5-8**

Fourteen-year-old Genna and her twelve-year-old brother Dan learn of their uncle's plot to gain immortality in exchange for human lives; and the two strike their own bargain with the Nightling lord, which sets them on a dangerous journey along the Moonroads in search of a key.

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Sammy Keyes and the Cold Hard Cash, Wendelin Van Draanen, \$19.00, Knopf **Grades 4-6**

Thirteen-year-old Sammy meets a mysterious man who dies of a heart attack after telling her to get rid of the large amount of money he is carrying, leading her to investigate who the man was and how he came to be carrying so much cash.

Sandy's Circus: a Story About Alexander Calder, Tanya Lee Stone, illustrated by Boris Kulikov, \$17.00, Viking **Grades 4-6**

An illustrated account of American mobile artist Alexander Calder's creation of a miniature circus from wire, string, rubber, cloth, and other found objects, which grew to fill multiple suitcases.

Santa Duck, David Milgrim, \$17.00, Putnam **Grades K-3**

While wearing a Santa hat and coat that he found on his doorstep, Nicholas Duck goes off in search of the real Santa Claus, but when his neighbors see him, they mistake him for the real thing. Nicholas's silliness and frustration will appeal to youngsters as will the simple message. Illustrated with digital ink and oil pastel illustrations that includes narrative text and cartoon balloons.

☺ *Satchel Paige: Striking Out Jim Crow* (Graphic Novel), James Sturm & Rich Tommaso, \$17.00, Hyperion, 2007 **Grades 7+**

A graphic novel account of the career of Negro League pitcher Satchel Paige, discussing the show he put on as a popular player, as well as the respect he demanded as an African-American.

Savvy, Ingrid Law, \$17.00, Dial **Grades 5-7**

Recounts the adventures of Mibs Beaumont, whose thirteenth birthday has revealed her "savvy", a magical power unique to each member of her family, just as her father is injured in a terrible accident. "Law's storytelling is rollicking, her language imaginative, and her entire cast of whacky, yet believable characters delightful. Readers will want more from Law; her first book is both wholly engaging and lots of fun." *Booklist*

Say Hello, Jack & Michael Foreman, \$16.00, Candlewick **Grades PreK-1**

Written when the author was ten years old, tells of a dog and a boy who are both lonely until they are included by others. Illustrated with charcoal, colored-pencil, and pastel artwork. This book would be useful for discussions about bullying, empathy, and character education.

Open Court: Finding Friends

Scoot! Cathryn Falwell, \$18.00, Greenwillow **PreK-1**

"Extraordinary paper collages accompany a high-spirited romp at the pond that involves everyone but "six silent turtles [that] sit still as stones." Strong, predictable rhymes bounce across the pages... Unusual, lively words extend vocabulary... This is an engaging book for young children, but it could also inspire older readers to play with language and use vivid word pictures to add life to writing." *School Library Journal* **Open Court: Let's Read**

☺ *The Searcher and Old Tree*, David McPhail, Charlesbridge **PreK-K**

A raccoon forages for food at night and at dawn returns to its home in a strong, old tree, which safely shelters the raccoon through wild winds and ferocious rain so that it can go out searching for food again. "The economical text has a soothing cadence. McPhail's textured

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pen, ink, and watercolor illustrations depict an endearing, contented raccoon and an anthropomorphized tree framed by white backgrounds. The raging storm at its peak is shown to good effect on two full spreads. In this book, home is clearly the best place to be during a storm, and this brief tale may offer comfort to children.” *School Library Journal* **Open Court: Being Afraid**

The Seer of Shadows, Avi, \$18.00, HarperCollins **Grades 4-6**

Photographer Horace Carpetine is commissioned to do a portrait for society matron Mrs. Frederick Von Macht; however, the photos evoke both the image and the ghost of the Von Macht's dead daughter, Eleanora, who has returned to seek vengeance on those who killed her. “Set after the Civil War in New York, this dandy mystery re-creates and stays within its historical period while also introducing characters confronting timeless questions of personal honor.” *Horn Book*

☺ *She Touched the World: Laura Bridgman, Deaf-Blind Pioneer*, Sally Hobart Alexander, & Robert Alexander, Clarion **Grades 3-6**

Chronicles the life of Laura Bridgman, who, at the age of five, became both deaf and blind, and recounts how she learned to communicate with the world around her and became one of the most famous people in the world. “...offers a salutary reminder that Helen Keller wasn't the only or even first, woman to prove that deafness and blindness are not unsurpassable obstacles to becoming a functional member of society.” *Kirkus* **Open Court: Communication**

☺ *Shooting the Moon*, Frances O'Roark Dowell, \$16.00, Atheneum **Grades 5-8**

When her brother is sent to fight in Vietnam, twelve-year-old Jamie begins to reconsider the army world that she has grown up in. Told by Jamie in the first person this story introduces a war, and the issues surrounding it.

☺ *Silent Music: a Story of Baghdad*, James Rumford, Roaring Brook **Grades 3-6**

As bombs and missiles fall on Baghdad in 2003, a young boy uses the art of calligraphy to distance himself from the horror of war. “Elaborately detailed designs appear throughout—intricate tile arrangements, delicate floral motifs, colorfully patterned clothing, even a backdrop that incorporates subtle images of warfare (army vehicles, helicopters, etc). Graceful lines of calligraphy flow across and are incorporated into the artwork. In addition to engendering appreciation for this art form, Rumford's book sheds light on life in war-torn Iraq and builds empathy for those caught in the crossfire.” *School Library Journal*

Sisters & Brothers: Sibling Relationships in the Animal World, Steve Jenkins, & Robin Page, \$16.00, Houghton **Grades 2-4**

“...this riveting picture book, illustrated in Jenkins' signature style, is packed with amazing facts about how young animals nurture one other or compete for survival and leave home. Depicted in crisp, gorgeous, cut-and-torn-paper collages set against lots of white space, the subjects range from female African elephants that stay with the herd and help take care of their younger siblings, to two young grizzlies that grow up together, then fight one another until one must leave.” *Booklist*

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☹ *Six Innings: a Game in the Life*, James Preller, \$16.00, Feiwel & Friends **Grades 5-8**

Earl Grubb's Pool Supplies plays Northeast Gas & Electric in the Little League championship game, while Sam, who has cancer and is in a wheelchair, has to call the play-by-play instead of participating in the game. "A tale of baseball, friendship, growth, and coming to terms with hardships, this fast read will grasp any reader who enjoys sports." *School Library Journal*

Skunkdog, Emily Jenkins, pictures by Pierre Pratt, \$17.00, Farrar **Grades PreK-2**

Dumpling, a lonely dog with no sense of smell, moves with his family to the country and tries to befriend a skunk in the backyard with predictable results. "Sunlit illustrations are done in oils and portray a white dog with an elongated nose and a furiously wagging black tail who complements the black-and-white skunk. Children will instantly relate to the pup's skunk encounters and share stories of their own. Important themes of loneliness, tolerance, friendship, and family emerge from this funny story. It will enrich any storytime and linger long in the minds of young readers and listeners." *School Library Journal*

Snow, Cynthia Rylant, illustrated by Lauren Stringer, \$17.00, Harcourt **Grades PreK-2**

Full-color illustrations and simple text introduce different types of snow to early readers, which includes soft, light, and heavy snow. The illustrations are distinguished by lush, pillowy lines and edged with blues and pinks.

South, Patrick Mc'Donnell, \$15.00, Little Brown **Grades PreK-3**

A little bird wakes up to find that his friends and family have flown south without him, but with the help of Mooch the cat, the bird might be able to catch up to his flock. Mooch offers a hand, leading and carrying his young charge through rural and urban landscapes, until the birds are joyfully reunited.

Stand Tall, Abe Lincoln, Judith St. George, Illus. by Matt Faulkner, Philomel, 2008 **Grades 2-5**

An illustrated account of the early life of Abraham Lincoln in the backwoods of Kentucky and Indiana, discussing how the support and encouragement of his stepmother Sally Johnston propelled him to success. Full page illustrations. An excellent **BIOGRAPHY** choice. **Grade 2 HSS 2.5**

Students on Strike: Jim Crow, Civil Rights, Brown, and Me: a Memoir, John A. Stokes, Lois Wolfe and Herman J. Viola \$16.00, Nat'l Geographic **Grades 6+**

John A. Stokes, one of the leaders of the student strike at R. R. Morton High School in 1951, describes the conditions in which he and his fellow classmates learned and provides an account of how they fought against segregation. "Period black-and-white photos and maps are included. Stokes's inspiring story reveals an almost completely unreported part of one of the most important court cases of the 20th century... this is an important choice for all collections." *School Library Journal* **Open Court: Taking a Stand**

Tadpole Rex, Kurt Cyrus, \$16.00, Harcourt **Grades K-3**

A tiny primordial tadpole grows into a frog, feeling just as strong and powerful as the huge tyrannosaurus rex that stomps through the mud. Rhyming text and "the swampy greens and hard edges of the digitally colored scratchboard artwork suit the prehistoric period and rough scales of the dinosaurs perfectly, while the varying scale of the illustrations will keep readers on their toes. Cyrus is a master of the extreme close-up. Readers will thrill to the action and

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suspense while teachers will appreciate the subtle lesson on the life cycle of frogs.” *Kirkus*
Open Court: Fossils

Tap Dancing on the Roof: Sijo Poems, Linda Sue Park, pictures by Istvan Banyai, \$16.00, Clarion, 2007 **Grades 2-6**

Sijo is a traditional Korean form of poetry using a strict syllable count as haiku does. “The selections are thoughtful, playful, and quirky; they will resonate with youngsters and encourage both fledgling and longtime poets to pull out paper and pen... A smart and appealing introduction to an overlooked poetic form.” *School Library Journal*

☺ *Those Amazing Musical Instruments! Your Guide to the Orchestra Through Sounds and Stories*, Genevieve Helsby, Sourcebooks, 2007 **Grades 4-9**

Contains facts and stories about the history and construction of the individual instruments that make up an orchestra, including strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion, and keyboards, with discussion of the voice, electronic instruments, and the conductor, and features musical examples on CD. “While there are many other books on this topic, this one is the most comprehensive and accessible.” *School Library Journal* **Open Court: Beyond the Notes**

Timothy and the Strong Pajamas: A Superhero Adventure, Viviane Schwarz, \$17.00, Scholastic **Grades PreK-2**

After his mother mends his favorite pajamas, Timothy finds that he has super strength and decides to use it to help others. When his pajamas rip he loses his strength just when he needs it most. “The watercolor illustrations vary from small vignettes, to vertical and horizontal paneled scenes, to full pages and spreads. Especially dynamic are the depictions of tiny Timothy carrying a bear so huge that he encompasses two pages... Youngsters who long to be strong and powerful will enter into this fantasy with gusto.” *School Library Journal*

☺ *Tough, Toothy Baby Sharks*, Sandra Markle, Walker, 2007 **Grades 2-5**

Photographs and text introduce students to the development of baby sharks, describing how different types of shark pups grow from eggs to mature adults, the ways they avoid predators, and their ascent up the ocean's food chain. “This is an excellent introduction to a topic that has wide appeal, and an A+ addition for every science collection.” *Library Media Connection*

☺ *Traction Man Meets Turbo Dog*, Mini Grey, \$17.00, Knopf **Grades PreK-3**

Traction Man braves the evil bin things in order to save Scrubbing Brush, who had been thrown away by the little boy's father and replaced with a battery-operated dog. A sequel to *Traction Man Is Here* (2005). Comic-book-style frames with captions on torn-out bits of graph paper are accompanied by hilarious details that lurk throughout.

Trouble Begins at 8: A Life of Mark Twain in the Wild, Wild West Sid Fleischman, HarperCollins **Grades 5-8**

A narrative account of the childhood and youth of nineteenth-century writer Mark Twain. Includes period engravings, newspaper cartoons, and black-and-white photographs. An engaging account with illustrations and photographs that are rich and varied. “The back matter is a work of art in itself: the time line, annotated bibliography, and references will prove useful to report writers and the inclusion of “The Celebrated Jumping Frog...” is an extra treat.” *School Library Journal*

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☹ *The True Meaning of Smekday*, Adam Rex, Hyperion, 2007 **Grades 5-8**

Twelve-year-old Gratuity "Tip" Tucci is left to fend for herself after Earth is colonized by aliens and her mother is abducted, and must try to stop another alien invasion with only the help of a cat named Pig and an alien named J. Lo.

Tunnels, Roderick Gordon, Brian Williams, \$18.00, Scholastic **Grades 5-9**

When Will Burrows and his friend Chester embark on a quest to find Will's archaeologist father, who has inexplicably disappeared, they are led to a labyrinthine world underneath London, full of sinister inhabitants with evil intentions toward "Topsoilers" like Will and his father.

Tupelo Rides the Rails, Melissa Sweet, \$17.00, Houghton **Grades K-3**

A dog named Tupelo sets off with her sock toy, Mr. Bones, to find the right place to call home, looking to the stars for guidance. "This is a richly rewarding book about the power of wishful thinking and kindness toward those most vulnerable. Tupelo is a sweet howl." *School Library Journal*

Turtle's Penguin Day, Valerie Gorbachev, Knopf **Grades PreK-1**

After hearing a bedtime story about penguins, Turtle dresses as one for school and soon the entire class is having a penguin day, sliding on their bellies and eating goldfish crackers. Includes a list of penguin facts.

Tweedle Dee Dee, Charlotte Voake, \$17.00, Candlewick **PreK-2**

Illustrations of a forest in spring and simple text provide a variation on the traditional folk song, "The Green Grass Grew All Around. Created with color, spontaneity and grace, the appealing pictures show a boy, a girl, and their cat picnicking beside a large tree where a pair of squirrels cavort and three birds in a nest hatch, and the air is soon filled with their song." *Booklist* Includes musical score.

The Twelve Dancing Princesses, The Brothers Grimm, illustrated by Rachel Isadora, \$17.00, Putnam **Grades K-3**

A king promises a great reward to any man who can find out how his princesses are wearing out their shoes every night without leaving their bedroom in this adaptation of Grimm's fairy tale with a multicultural twist, now set in Africa. Illustrated with "... sumptuous, kente cloth textiles and Serengeti-like landscapes that pop vibrantly against primarily white backgrounds." *Booklist* **Open Court: Sharing Stories**

The Ugly Duckling, Stephen Mitchell, ret., paintings by Steve Johnson and Lou Fancher, \$17.00, Candlewick **Grades K-4**

"An absolutely drop-dead gorgeous edition of the beloved Andersen tale. Mitchell hews very closely to the language and cadences of the original: What this means is a measured and rich text, excellent for reading aloud if not for very young children. Johnson and Fancher make mixed-media and collage images of powerful beauty." *Kirkus* **Open Court: Sharing Stories**

Uh-Oh, Cleo, Jessica Harper, illustrated by Jon Berkeley, \$15.00, Putnam **Grades 2-3 (Easy Fiction)**

What starts out as a perfectly ordinary day in the Small house turns into Stitches Saturday when Cleo gets a cut on the head after her twin brother, Jack, accidentally pulls down their Toy House. "Playful ink illustrations and large font make it a natural choice for those readers

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bounding into the world of beginning chapter books. Cleo will appeal to kids who've enjoyed Barbara Park's Junie B. Jones..." *School Library Journal*

United Tweets of America, Hudson Talbott, \$18.00, Putnam **Grades 3-5**

This is a joyful and irreverent look at the 50 state birds of the United States. Each entry features puns and parodies, bits of history, geography about each state, names the state bird and capital, shows a small shape map of the state, and gives its nickname. Humorously illustrated with cartoon-like ink and watercolor artwork. **Grade 5 HSS 5.9**

Velma Gratch & the Way Cool Butterfly, Alan Madison, illustrated by Kevin Hawkes, \$17.00, Schwartz&Wade (2007) **Grades K-3**

First grade does not go very well for Velma, whose older sisters were practically perfect students, until her class takes a trip to a butterfly conservatory and a monarch butterfly demands to be her friend. "The book is a visual and verbal delight. While it is a perfect curricular tie-in, don't wait for an excuse to share this story of a gentle but plucky girl determined to discover her talents. Kids will relate to Velma's struggle and rejoice in her victory." *School Library Journal*, **Open Court: Kindness Grade 2 Science**

Visitor for Bear, A, Bonny Becker, illustrated by Kady MacDonald Denton, \$17.00, Candlewick **Grades PreK-3**

Bear's efforts to keep out visitors to his house are undermined by a very persistent mouse. "The fastidious, pot-bellied bear wears a tiny apron while the wee mouse with a big personality peeks out of such unlikely places as an egg carton. The lively repetition and superb pacing make this an ideal choice for storytime." Listen to Daniel Pinkwater and Scott Simon reading; www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=91210635 **Open Court: Friendship**

☺ *Vulture View*, April Pulley Sayre, illustrated by Steve Jenkins, \$17.00, Holt **Grades K-2**

Simple rhyming text and illustrations introduce readers to the turkey vulture, discussing their eating habits, behaviors, and more. "Jenkins's cut-paper illustrations capture the readily recognizable silhouette of the birds as well as zooming in to detail their intricate feather patterns. Additional factual information about vulture habitats, and resources for further study, are found in the final pages of the book." *Horn Book*

Wabi Sabi, Mark Reibstein ; art by Ed Young, \$15.00, Little Brown **Grades 3-5**

Wabi Sabi, a cat living in the city of Kyoto, travels all around Japan to find out the meaning of her name. In the process she learns about the Japanese concept of beauty through simplicity as she asks various animals she meets about the meaning of her name.

Waiting for Normal, Leslie Connor, \$18.00, HarperCollins **Grades 5-8**

Twelve-year-old Addie tries to cope with her mother's erratic behavior and being separated from her beloved stepfather and half-sisters when she and her mother go to live in a small trailer by the railroad tracks on the outskirts of Schenectady, New York.

Wave, Suzy Lee, \$16.00, Chronicle **Grades K-3**

"A wordless picture book perfectly captures a child's day at the beach. Followed by a flock of seagulls, a girl runs delightedly to where waves break on the shore. She surveys the sea and together they begin a silent dance. She chases it as it recedes, runs from it as it surges, splashes in it when it calms, taunts it as it rises, and finally succumbs to it crashing down

Notable Books for 2008-2009

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upon her and discovers what treasures the waves can bring.” Acrylic-and-charcoal illustrations tell the story sublimely. **Open Court: By the Sea**

Way up and Over Everything, Alice McGill, illustrated by Jude Daly, \$16.00, Houghton, **Grades 2-5**

Jane, a slave, witnesses the arrival of five newly purchased Africans. They escape and, hand in hand, spring aloft, vanishing into the sky. Daly's figures are slim and spare in an airy, stylized setting that enhances the glorious sense of freedom seized against all odds. Dramatic pacing and vivid details add immediacy. **Open Court: Risks and Consequences**

☺ *We Are One: The Story of Bayard Rustin*, Larry Dane Brimner, Boyds Mills **Grades 6+**

Chronicles the life of African-American social activist Bayard Rustin, discussing his protests of segregation before the civil rights movement began and his organization of the March on Washington. **Open Court: Taking a Stand**

We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball, Kadir Nelson, \$19.00, Hyperion **Gr 5+**

A stunning history of the Negro baseball league. Illustrated with photo realistic paintings that bring a sense of story and realism to the events and people involved. Challenging reading, but a passion for baseball might inspire younger readers to pursue.

Well Witched, Frances Hardinge, \$17.00, HarperCollins **Grades 5-8**

“In this delicious creepy tale, three children fall under the power of an elemental divinity after stealing coins from a wishing well. To repay their debt, they must fulfill the wishes of people whose coins they took. There is a vividness and energy to Hardinge’s imagination that makes almost every moment of this absorbing story shine with light or glossy darkness.”
Horn Book

☺ *What the World Eats*, Faith D'Aluisio, photographed by Peter Menzel, \$23.00, Tricycle **Gr 4-8**

A collection of photographs depicting twenty-five families from twenty-one different countries, and includes Chad, Equador, Greenland, Japan, Mongolia, and others, and also describes the cost of a weeks worth of food, and other cultural information for each listed country.

What to Do About Alice?: How Alice Roosevelt Broke the Rules, Charmed the World, and Drove Her Father Teddy Crazy!, Barbara Kerley, illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham, \$17.00, Scholastic **Grades 3-5**

In this dynamic picture book biography children will enjoy a very unconventional female historical figure. While her father, President Theodore Roosevelt, called her behavior "running riot," Alice called it "eating up the world." She was undisciplined, strong-willed, intelligent, and altogether the "princess" of her early 20th century world. Includes an author's note. Excellent **BIOGRAPHY** choice. **Open Court: Taking a Stand**

When I Crossed No-Bob, Margaret McMullan, \$16.00, Houghton **Grades 5-8**

Ten years after the Civil War's end, twelve-year-old Addy, abandoned by her parents, is taken from the horrid town of No-Bob, the hollow claimed by her notorious extended family, by schoolteacher Frank Russell and his bride, but when her father returns to claim her she must find another way to leave her O'Donnell past behind.

Notable Books for 2008-2009

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When Randolph Turned Rotten, Charise Mericle Harper, \$17.00, Knopf **Grades PreK-2**

Best friends Randolph, a beaver, and Ivy, a goose, do everything together until Ivy is invited to a girls-only birthday sleepover party and Randolph, full of bad feelings, tries to spoil her fun. Illustrated with colorful acrylic cartoons. “ Every one of her acrylic vignettes is a goofy gem-the doll-like characters bubble with endearing, outsize personalities. An astute and empathetic look at jealousy and other emotions.” *Publisher’s Weekly* **Open Court: Friendship**

When the Sergeant Came Marching Home, Don Lemna, \$17.00, Holiday **Grades 4-7**

When his father returns from the war in 1946, a ten year old boy and his family move from their home in a Montana town to an old, run-down farm in the middle of nowhere where they work hard trying to make ends meet. Episodic chapters provide a sometimes poignant, sometimes hilarious glimpse at one family's readjustment to post-war life.

☺ *Who Was First?: Discovering the Americas*, Russell Freedman, Clarion **Grades 4-6**

Freedman demonstrates how North and South America have been discovered and settled over and over since the Stone Age. In lively, graceful prose, he invites readers to ponder serious historical questions. Straightforward explanations of various historical theories include evidence for and against their validity. The book's design adds to its appeal, with plenty of color, ample white space, and carefully chosen illustrations. (*Horn Book*) **Grade 5 HSS 5.2**

☺ *Wild Animals in Captivity*, Rob Laidlaw, Fitzhenry&Whiteside **Grades 5-8**

“This is a passionate, well-written, and well-researched argument against the practices of most zoos around the world. (The author) describes the damage done when animals are unnaturally confined and moved to inhospitable climates, and compares the wild and captive lives of polar bears, orcas, elephants, and great apes-the four species most harmed by captivity... This title is likely to be controversial as it does not excuse the practices of our most hallowed zoos, and it criticizes the standards of the U.S. Association of Zoos and Aquariums. The issues raised in this important and powerful book will resonate with young and old.” **Grade 6: Ecology**

☺ *Wild Tracks!: A Guide to Nature’s Footprints*, Jim Arnosky, Sterling **Grades 2-6**

Presents detailed illustrations of life-size paw, claw, and hoof prints; and explains how to identify tracks and how fast the animal might be traveling. Includes four large gatefolds. “This new entry is worthy of purchase for its inviting format and its promising premise that kids can find tracks, interpret them, and have a great time outdoors.” *School Library Journal*

☺ *Will Sheila Share?* Elivia Savadier, Roaring Brook **Grades PreK-K**

Sheila, a toddler, is quite particular about what she will or will not share, but her grandmother teaches her that it is always good to share. Watercolor and ink pictures are energetic. This simple story should be just at toddler and preschooler's level of understanding as well as offering some relief to frustrated adults.

The Willoughbys, Lois Lowry, \$16.00, Houghton **Grades 4-6**

A tongue-in-cheek take on classic themes in children's literature, in which the four Willoughby children set out to become "deserving orphans" after their neglectful parents embark on a treacherous around-the-world adventure, leaving them in the care of an odious nanny.

Notable Books for 2008-2009

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The Wolves are Back, Jean Craighead George, paintings by Wendell Minor, \$17.00, Dutton **Gr 1-4**

An uplifting, lyrical story of how wolves were returned to Yellowstone Park after having been aggressively hunted throughout the United States. The art, some full page, some full spread, captures life in the park, with its bears, birds, bison, and beavers, its bees, butterflies, and dragonflies.

Women Daredevils: Thrills, Chills, and Frills, Julie Cummins, illustrated by Cheryl Harness, \$18.00, Dutton **Grades 4-6**

Recommended as **excellent biography** & women's history. Profiles fourteen women who flouted convention to work as entertainers in the years between 1880 and 1929, performing thrilling feats in the water, in the air, and in the circus. Richly colored, detailed illustrations, including full-page portraits, are expressive, realistic, and filled with action.

Wynken, Blynken, and Nod, Eugene W. Field, illustrated by Giselle Potter, \$17.00, Schwartz&Wade **Grades PreK-2**

An illustrated bedtime poem in which three fishermen in a wooden shoe catch stars in their nets of silver and gold. The book is filled with full-bleed, double-page spreads. His book would be most useful in collections needing this poem or an example of Potter's art. **Open Court: Let's Read**

☺ *Yoko Writes Her Name*, Rosemary Wells, \$16.00, Hyperion **Grades PreK-2**

Kindergartner Yoko has just learned to write her name in Japanese calligraphy. She is teased by two classmates, but when her fellow students want to learn how to write their names using Japanese calligraphy, the teasers begin to worry because they haven't learned to write their names in Japanese. **English learners in particular will savor Yoko's accomplishments.** As always, believable characters, familiar struggles and warmth fill Wells's work, which teaches a subtle lesson on acceptance and maturity with great clarity.

YouTube, Adam Woog, \$20.00, Norwood **Grades 4-6**

Describes the invention and development of YouTube. Includes glossary, websites, and bibliography for further reading. The up-to-date text (for the moment) discusses a number of recent ways YouTube has changed society, including its effect on the 2008 election. The attractive design features full-color photographs, while fast facts appear throughout the narrative in eye-catching sidebars.

Yum! Mmmm! Que Rico!, Pat Mora, pictures by Rafael Lopez, \$17.00, Lee & Low **Grades 2-5**

A collection of Haiku that celebrates diverse plants native to the Americas, such as blueberries, chocolate, prickly pears, pecans and more. Each is illustrated with bright artwork and is accompanied by a paragraph of information about the origin of the food. An excellent choice for **Grade 5 HSS**

Zorgamazoo, Robert Paul Weston, \$16.00, Penguin

Imaginative and adventurous Katrina eludes her maniacal guardian to help Morty, a member of a vanishing breed of zorgles, with his quest to uncover the fate of the fabled zorgles of Zorgmazoo as well as of other creatures that seem to have disappeared from the Earth. This fantasy in rhymed verse is at once silly and gross. "Ready your most nefarious whisper and spectacular boom, and read these bouncing, fanciful rhymes aloud to those who can't go it alone." *Booklist*