

Notable Books 2009

Abe Lincoln Crosses a Creek, Hopkinson, Deborah, \$17.00, Schwartz/Wade , **CA Vistas Gr 1**

Lincoln himself would be hard-pressed to beat Hopkinson's considerable skill in recounting this incident from childhood, in which his friend saved him from drowning. Hopkinson's personal comments and Hendrix's illustrations provide a great story. "Best of all, Hopkinson addresses the unknowns: "For that's the thing about history--if you weren't there, you can't know for sure." *Horn Book*

African Acrostics: a Word in Edgeways, Harley, Avis, \$19.00, Candlewick, **CA Science Gr 6**

Acrostic poems highlight the animals of Africa. Some of the acrostics spell the name of the animals, and others expand the topic of the poem by varying the seriousness of the poems and the rhythm and rhyme. Backmatter includes more about acrostics as a poetic form and short paragraphs of information about each of the featured animals. Illustrated with full color photographs A good cross-curriculum title that kids will enjoy beyond the classroom.

Al Capone Shines my Shoes*, Choldenko, Gennifer, \$17.00, Dial **Gr 4-6

Moose Flanagan, who lives on Alcatraz along with his family and the families of the other prison guards, is frightened when he discovers that noted gangster Al Capone, a prisoner there, wants a favor in return for the help that he secretly gave Moose. Sequel to *Al Capone Does My Shirts*. An enjoyable, stand-alone sequel.

Albert Einstein, Krull, Kathleen, \$16.00, Viking **Gr 5-8**

An exploration of the life and times of German-born theoretical physicist Albert Einstein, whose contributions to the field earned him a Nobel Prize. "Einstein is depicted as a rebel student, absentminded scientist, and distracted parent who made mistakes and had his regrets, but who also retained his curiosity and continued to work on answering the questions he imagined. The final chapter explains why he was important, and how modern experiments continue to prove his theories." *SLJ*

Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream, Stone, Tanya Lee, \$20.00, Candlewick, **Gr 5-8**

"The story of the ultimately unsuccessful effort to get women into NASA's Mercury astronaut training program is meticulously researched and thrillingly told. Stone uses first- and second-hand sources, including interviews with many of the women, and outstanding historical photographs. The revelatory text clearly shows the personal and physical risks taken by the women in pursuit of their dreams." *SLJ*

The Anne Frank Case, Rubin, Susan Goldman, \$18.00, Holiday House, **Open Court: 4 Survival**

"Holocaust survivor Wiesenthal dedicated his life to bringing Nazis to justice. Using extensive research, Rubin recounts Wiesenthal's story as well as his mission to prove to Holocaust deniers that Anne Frank existed. Farnsworth's darkly haunting illustrations (one shows a soldier holding a gun to a man's head, another depicts Frank, frightened, raising her hands in surrender) bring the text chillingly to life." *Horn Book*

Anne Frank: Her Life in Words and Pictures*, Metselaar, Menno, \$23.00, Roaring Brook Press, **Open Court: 4 Survival

Beginning with a single photograph of the cover of Anne Frank's diary and the quote, "One of my nicest presents," this small, beautifully formatted book is accessible, compelling, and richly pictorial. The book immediately immerses readers in the girl's life via a series of family photographs, many previously unpublished. Divided chronologically, the accompanying text is enhanced by diary entries, resulting in a historically succinct yet descriptive presentation, even for those who have yet to read her actual diary." *Horn Book*

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Ashley Bryan: Words to My Life's Song, Bryan, Ashley, \$17.00, Atheneum, **Gr 3-6**

With vintage and contemporary photographs, original artwork and illustration, and lyrical evocations of Maine's landscape, this book explores Bryan's creative life. Readers will learn of his setbacks, tenaciousness, and artistic and philosophical prowess. The volume's scattered format doesn't do Bryan's books justice. However, the expansiveness and exuberance of the artist and his work carry the day.

Barnyard Slam, Regan, Dian Curtis, \$17.00, Holiday House, **Open Court: Country Life, Gr 3**

“‘Yo Mama Goose’ is hosting a poetry slam in the barn. The animals gather around a pallet stage and glowing lantern as they await their turns to perform. Charley Horse takes the stage with a free-verse poem lamenting his hay-based diet., ‘Hog, Duck, and Sheep recite their selections, and even Lamb chimes in with a parody of Dr. Seuss's ‘Sam I Am’” *Horn Book*

Bartleby Speaks!, Cruise, Robin, \$17.00, FSG **Gr PreK-2**

“Like most toddlers, Bartleby enjoys playing patty-cake, crawling, and jumping. But he doesn't say a single word. His mother sings loudly in pig Latin, his father plays the cello at bedtime, and his sister shrieks as she tap dances around him. Still, he doesn't talk. On his third birthday, after he enjoys sitting quietly on the porch swing with Grampy, Bartleby finally has something to say. Youngsters will wait with great anticipation for the hilarious conclusion and ask for repeated readings.” *SLJ*

Bill Martin, Jr. Big Book of Poetry, The, Martin, Jr., Bill, \$21.00, Simon & Schuster **Gr 2-5**

“This collection features over one hundred poems and a tribute to the late Bill Martin Jr. The works are grouped by theme, with a closing Mother Goose section. Though a few current poets pop up, the collection leans toward the old-fashioned. The art lends freshness, with a range of styles and media (e.g., Chris Raschka's watercolors, Lois Ehlert's and Ashley Bryan's collages).” *Horn Book*

Billy and Milly Short and Silly*, Feldman, Eve B., \$17.00, Putnam, **Open Court: K Let's Read

Presents thirteen short rhyming stories about Billy and Milly. Most of them are four words long; some, only three. Every word in each selection rhymes. Bright cartoon illustrations done in mixed-media collage are the keys to understanding the stories and the humor. Page turns often play an important role in creating a dramatic ending. Both clever and slapstick, this book can be read for pleasure or used as a jumping-off point for thinking about rhyme, language, and story.

Binky the Space Cat, Spires, Ashley, \$16.00, Kids Can Press, **Gr 2-4**

Binky, a house cat who believes the family home is actually a space station, trains and prepares to travel into outer space, where his humans go everyday and need his protection. This tongue-in-cheek tale is illustrated with droll illustrations. Binky is sufficiently rotund and cuddly to make images of him as a ninja or conquering hero that much more enjoyable.

Birds*, Henkes, Kevin, \$16.00, Greenwillow, **PreK-1

“In the voice of a young child, Henkes muses on birds, their colors and sizes, their movements and mysteries. Dronzek's acrylic paintings, one part naive, one part William Steig, focus and expand the plain, poetic text. In the final pages we meet our narrator, joining a robin in song. We have moved from bird watching through bird wondering to bird being.” *Horn Book*

Blue Mountain Trouble, Mordecai, Martin, \$16.00, Arthur A. Levine, **Culturally Relevant Gr 3-6**

“Twins Jackson and Pollyread (so nicknamed for her favorite pastime) live in a village in Jamaica's Blue Mountains. Trouble begins when Jammy Parchment is found squatting on their family's land. Much of the story's dialogue is in a melodic Jamaican patois. Mordecai's descriptions of the close-knit community and the uniquely beautiful setting, including supernatural elements, are memorably vivid.” *Horn Book*

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Boats: Speeding! Sailing! Cruising!, Hubbell, Patricia, \$16.00, Marshall Cavendish, **Open Court: 1 Things That Go**

In straightforward rhyming text ("Icebreakers smash an icy floe; / penguins dive down deep below"), this book presents a variety of watercraft: tugboats, yachts, trawlers, ferries, aircraft carriers, etc. There's lots to see in the humorous vintage-looking mixed-media illustrations featuring clip art, old papers, and original drawings. Two double-page-spread layouts are vertical.

Bobby vs. Girls (Accidentally), Yee, Lisa, \$16.00, Arthur E. Levine, **Culturally Relevant Gr 3-6**

"Those clamoring for fiction with nonwhite or biracial characters in which race is not the focus will welcome nine-year-old Bobby Ellis-Chan. Bobby and Holly have been best friends since babyhood, but they've learned over the last couple of years to keep their friendship secret. When Holly, rather than joining Bobby for their annual rock-hunting trip the last day of summer vacation, chooses instead to go shopping (gasp!) with Jillian Zarr, Bobby senses the end is near, and indeed it is." *Horn Book*

The Bog Baby, Willis, Jeanne, \$17.00, Schwartz & Wade, **Open Court: 3 Imagination**

"Two girls sneak out to the magic pond in Bluebell Wood and come home with a bog baby—a blue, toadlike blob in Millward's delicately drawn illustrations, with stubby wings and an amiable smile. When, despite plenty of TLC, the girls' small treasure eventually turns pale and ill, along comes Mom to remind them that bog babies are wild things that are not suited to eating cake crumbs or sleeping in a margarine tub. Time to set it free again." *Booklist*

A Book of Sleep, Na, Il Sung, \$16.00, Knopf, **Gr K-3**

While other animals sleep at night, some quietly and others noisily, some alone and others huddled together, a wide-eyed owl watches. "There are moments of quiet humor—a flock of oblong birds warily napping with one eye open on a telephone wire—as well as those that emphasize contented sleep (giraffes' heads rest on clouds overhead, while penguins "sleep all together, huddled close at night"). It's the rare picture book that, upon arrival, feels as though it has been around for years already; Na's belongs to this group." *Publisher's Weekly*

Boy Who Invented TV: The Story of Philo Farnsworth, The, Krull, Kathleen, \$17.00, Knopf, **Gr 2-5**

Presents a picture-book biography of Philo Farnsworth, who created the world's first television image in 1928. While plowing a field, Farnsworth developed the idea for how television could work, inspired by those parallel furrows as a format to transmit an electronic signal. It is the inventor's passion and genius that come through in this picture-book biography that follows him from the three-year-old who drew schematics of train engines, to the teen who automated the clothes washer so he would have more time to read, to the young man who celebrated his invention.

Bubble Trouble, Mahy, Margaret, \$14.00, Clarion, **Gr PreK-2**

"When Mabel blows a bubble, it causes trouble in an inimitable Mahy way, surrounding Baby and taking him on an amazing adventure. The text's tongue-stumbling internal rhymes will keep storytellers on their toes while Dunbar's cut-paper and watercolor illustrations faithfully depict every detail. As suspense builds in both words and pictures, little ones' eyes will be as round as the bubble." *Horn Book*

Burn My Heart, Naidoo, Beverley, \$14.00, HarperCollins, ,Gr 5-8

"Mathew, son of a British landowner in Kenya, and Mugo, son of a black stableman who works on Mathew's father's land, continue a tenuous friendship begun by their grandfathers. As the Mau Mau movement for Kenyan independence builds during the 1950s, the trust between their families erodes. Lyrical text and a vivid setting bring to light this turbulent time in Africa's history." *Horn Book*

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Butterflies and Moths*, Bishop, Nic, \$16.00, Scholastic, **Gr 4 CA Science

“In informative but not-too-demanding text, Bishop covers life cycles, eating, defenses, mating, and the differences between butterflies and moths, all illustrated with intriguing full-page photographs. A pull-out center-page spread contains a series of photos showing five steps in a butterfly's flight process. An appended section describes Bishop's quest to photograph a Costa Rican caterpillar that camouflages itself as a snake.” *Horn Book*

Button Up: Wrinkled Rhymes, Schertle, Alice, \$12.00, Harcourt, **Gr K-2**

“Fifteen adroitly phrased rhymes, voiced by pieces of clothing, reflect children's amiable relationships with these intimate possessions. Schertle's contagiously rhythmic, playful verse is perfectly reflected in the art (full-page alternating with lively vignettes). From delicately comical to downright funny, Mathers brings her signature style to endearing watercolors of the various animals who stand in for children.” *Horn Book*

Celestine Drama Queen, Ives, Penny, \$15.00, Arthur A. Levine, **Gr PreK-1**

“Born to be a star, little duck Celestine is thrilled about her role in the school play--until stage fright gets the best of her. The reassuring story line suggests that making a mistake doesn't define your destiny. Delicate illustrations featuring pale pinks, blues, yellows, and greens and accessorized with stars and smiles capture the essence of Celestine's confident self-image.” *Horn Book*

A Chair for Always, Williams, Vera, \$16.00, Greenwillow, **Gr 2-4**

“Rosa anxiously awaits the birth of her cousin. She ruminates about how life is always changing: she'll grow up and move away from home. Through it all, one comforting constant will be her mother's red chair covered in roses. The soothing, rhythmic story is illustrated with vivid watercolors that display the family's warmth. Concurrently published in Spanish.” *Horn Book*

Chasing Lincoln's Killer, Swanson, James L., \$16.00, Scholastic, Gr 6+

“Swanson tracks Booth and his conspirators from Lincoln's assassination to their escape over land and water to the climactic shootout leading to Booth's death. Reproductions of newspapers and documents, photographs and artifacts (e.g., the conspirators' wrist irons), and sepia-toned pages add to the tension-filled story's unique presentation. Based on Swanson's adult book *Manhunt*. No sources are mentioned, compromising historical veracity.” *Horn Book*

Cool Cat, Hogrogian, Nonny, \$18.00, Roaring Brook Press, **Gr PreK-1**

“A vacant lot strewn with garbage is transformed by an artistic and imaginative black cat in this wordless picture book. Using paints and brushes from his wooden art box, the feline covers his drab surroundings with leaves and sky, enlisting the help of some birds and woodland creatures that take up brushes to add flowers, trees, and a pond. When butterflies arrive and a mallard comes to swim, the landscape is complete and it's time for the cat to put painting supplies away, smell the roses, and settle down for a nap.” *SLJ*

Coretta Scott, Shange, Ntozake, \$16.00, Katherine Tegen, Gr 4-9

“Shange's spare, poetic text sketches the life of Coretta Scott King. The story begins with her childhood, when she had to walk five miles each way to school, then moves to her leadership role as partner to Martin Luther King Jr. in life and within the civil rights movement. Nelson's gorgeous oil paintings capture the essence of the woman and her times.” *Horn Book*

**Crossing Stones*, Frost, Helen, \$17.00, FSG, Gr 6+

“Two pairs of siblings, Muriel and Ollie Jorgensen and Emma and Frank Norman, have grown up together on adjacent Michigan farms. Hints of romance stir among the group just as World War I breaks out, but independent Muriel refuses Frank's kiss before he leaves for the front. Ollie follows Frank to war, and in letters blackened with censors' ink, he details the battlefield horrors and his sorrow at the news that Frank has been killed. At home, Muriel finds inspiration in her suffragist

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aunt's protests in Washington D.C., while the more traditional Emma observes, "Making sure everyone is fed / and clothed and cared for—that also takes a kind of pluck." *SLJ*

The Curious Garden, Brown, Peter, \$16.00, Little Brown, **Gr 1-3**

"Liam, who lives in a slightly surreal "city without gardens or trees or greenery of any kind," turns an abandoned railway into a green paradise. When his garden overruns the city, it's cause for celebration, not complaint. The book's look-for-beauty-where-you-least-expect-it message is best delivered in a series of dramatic acrylic and gouache wordless double-page spreads featuring the fruits of Liam's labor." *Horn Book*

Darwin: With Glimpses into His Private Journal and Letters, McGinty, Alice B., \$14.00, Houghton Mifflin Gr 3-5

"In this revealing work, readers can consider Darwin from two points of view: his own and his biographer's. The primary narrative follows the voyage of the Beagle, and nearly every spread contains a parchment-like "letter" including edited portions of Darwin's own diary and letters. Azarian's watercolor-tinted woodcuts evoke the naive art of the period. A brief author's note and source notes are appended. Bib." *Horn Book*

Denied, Detained, Deported: Stories from the Dark Side of American Immigration, Bausum, Ann, \$22.00, National Geographic, **Gr 5-9**

"Profiling anarchist Emma Goldman (deported in 1919), a Jewish refugee (denied entry in 1939), and a Japanese-American family (detained in a WWII internment camp), Bausam examines the consequences of America's "harsh immigration decisions." Opening and closing chapters discuss the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act and the ongoing debate over Mexican-U.S. immigration policy, respectively. An eye-pleasing book design incorporates many affecting period photographs. Reading list, timeline, websites. Bib., ind." *Horn Book*

Diego: Bigger than Life, Bernier-Grand, Carmen, \$18.00, Marshall Cavendish, **Gr 5-9**

"In free verse, Bernier-Grand (Frida: !Viva la Vida! / Long Live Life!, Cesar) chronicles the childhood of Mexican painter Diego Rivera, before highlighting the passions (art, women, politics) of his adult life. These vignettes are appropriately accompanied by Diaz's vibrantly colored mixed-media silhouettes and occasionally--and to great effect--Rivera's own paintings. An author's note and quotes by Rivera are appended. Timeline. Bib., glos." *Horn Book*

Dinohesaurus: Prehistoric Poems and Paintings, Florian, Douglas, \$16.00, Atheneum, **Open Court: 2 Fossils**

"Set in spreads of dreamy dinosaur art, these 20 playful paleontologic poems overflow with wit and useful information. Each selection includes a helpful pronunciation guide as well as the meaning behind the dinosaur's name. Back matter includes a "Glossarysaurus" that provides more information for each dinosaur and details about its extinction, and a page of dinosaur museums and fossil Web sites. This smart marriage of dinosaurs and poetry will delight a wide audience." *SLJ*

Dinotrux, Gall, Chris, \$16.00, Little Brown, **Gr K-3**

"Combine dinosaurs and trucks and what do you get? In this case, a passel of grateful readers, especially those of the young male variety. With comically overheated narration and typography (think History Channel meets Ripley's Believe It or Not!), fire-roasted settings and hilariously imagined creatures that suggest the offspring of R. Crumb creations and the Transformers, Gall posits that today's trucks are really the descendants of hulking truck-dinosaur hybrids that "ruled the world" and struck fear into the hearts of cave people." *Publisher's Weekly*

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Django: World's Greatest Jazz Guitarist*, Christensen, Bonnie, \$18.00, Roaring Brook Press, **Open Court: 6 Beyond the Notes

“The brilliant jazz guitarist's life from birth in a Roma camp to stardom on a floodlit Paris stage, is sketched in free verse and vibrant oils. The narrative finds its dramatic core in the fire that rages through Django's wagon, badly burning his hands. His long recuperation is depicted against grays that gradually brighten as he heals and adapts to playing without the use of two fingers on his left hand.”
Kirkus Be sure to play some of Django's music!

The Doll Shop Downstairs, McDonough, Yona Zeldis, \$15.00, Viking **Gr 2-4**

When World War I breaks out, nine-year-old Anna thinks of a way to save her family's beloved New York City doll repair shop. Fascinating historical details of life on the Lower East Side mesh with the day-to-day routines of these three Jewish sisters as they learn to get along with each other through work and play. Includes brief author's note about the history of the Madame Alexander doll, a glossary, and timeline.

Duck! Rabbit!*, Rosenthal, Amy Krouse, \$16.00, Chronicle **PreK-1

“It's a duck. No, it's a rabbit. While two offstage narrators argue, readers can decide what the central figure in each double-page spread actually is. Rosenthal's skillfully written banter is heightened by Lichtenheld's simple ink, watercolor, and colored-pencil illustrations of the white duck-rabbit figure outlined in thick black line and silhouetted against a bright blue sky. A great brainteaser and great fun.” *Horn Book*

The Duel, St. George, Judith, \$17.00, Viking **Gr 5-8+**

Highlights similar aspects of the lives of Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr, and examines how the two war heroes and founding fathers ended up in a duel that cost one of them his life. In the course of 25 years, their life paths crossed time and again, culminating in a tragic duel, as senseless as it was damaging for both parties.

The Dunderheads*, Fleischman, Paul, \$17.00, Candlewick **Gr 3-6

“Miss Breakbone is a piratical confiscator of treasures brought to class. Led by self-possessed narrator "Einstein," her students set out to retrieve Miss Breakbone's latest plunder--a one-eared cat statue. Roberts caricatures the formidable teacher and the amiably wide-eyed kids with a witty, agile pen and judicious splashes of color, an excellent foil for Fleischman's terse and comical, action-packed private-eye send-up.” *Horn Book*

Earth in the Hot Seat: Bulletins From a Warming world, Delano, Marfe Ferguson, \$20.00, National Geographic, **Gr 6 CA Science**

Presents scientific research into global warming theories, including studies using tree rings and glacier ice samples, and discusses global and local approaches to climate change with tips on how to reduce one's carbon footprint. Informative captions accompany photographs illustrating the results of global warming around the planet. Reading list. Bib., ind.

Eidi: Children of Crow Cove, Bredsdorff, Bodil, \$17.00, FSG **Gr 3-6**

Eidi leaves her mother and stepfather in Crow Cove to live in a nearby village, where she meets the much younger Tink and rescues him from the abusive man he has been living with. “...this unassuming yet compelling story is notable for the simplicity and power of the storytelling, the clarity of description and characterization, and the humanity of the ideas at the novel's heart.” *Horn Book*

Emmaline and the Bunny, Hannigan, Katherine, \$13.00, Greenwillow, **Easy Chapter book Gr 3-5**

“The mayor of Neatasapin, Orson Oliphant, bullies everyone into inordinate tidiness and forbids all things wild. Emmaline, lonely and independent of spirit, befriends a wild bunny and, empowered by new ideas, enlists her parents to invite wildlife back into the community. Written in a quirky, staccato style, studded with whimsical nonsense and illustrated with full-color watercolors.” *Horn Book*

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The Enemy, a Book About Peace, Cali, Davide, \$14.00, Schwartz & Wade **Gr 4-8**

An understated picture book for older readers. After watching an enemy for a very long time during an endless war, a soldier finally creeps out into the night to the other man's hole and is surprised by what he finds there. "Poignant, thought-provoking, and powerful in its frankness and simplicity, this short piece will prompt discussion on war and other means of resolving conflict." *SLJ*

Erika-San*, Say, Allen, \$15.00, Houghton Mifflin, **Gr 3-5

"An American girl dreams of living in Japan, a goal she achieves as an adult when she takes a teaching job there. Tokyo's too crowded; a remote island proves just the setting she's looking for. While this tale of a dream attained has dubious child appeal, Say's storytelling and illustrations of rural Japan are as absorbing as ever." *Horn Book*

Every Human has Rights, Robinson, Mary (Foreward), \$17.00, National Geographic, **Gr 5-8**

Combines photographs with poetry to offer an overview of the thirty rights granted to all people by the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. "Speaking to children with the notion that learning means understanding rather than memorizing, this book impresses on students that they should always be searching for the definition of freedom, and what human rights really mean to everyone." *Horn Book*

The Everything Machine, Novak, Matt, \$18.00, Roaring Brook Press **Gr K-3**

The people of Planet Quirk all have machines that do everything for them, including coloring their coloring books, but when the machines stop working, the people will have to learn to do for themselves. "The mix of comic panels, word bubbles and bird's-eye tableaux is terrific; Novak even provides a Quirkian history lesson via visual flashbacks in old timey sepia and blue. Dystopian allegory, lively storytelling, giggle-worthy pictures, boy appeal--yup: Everything's here." *Kirkus*

Extreme Scientists: Exploring Nature's Mysteries from Perilous Places, Jackson, Donna M., \$18.00, Houghton Mifflin, **Gr 6 CA Science**

Profiles three extreme scientists who risk their lives to conduct research in some of the world's most intense environments, describing the experiences of scientists studying hurricanes, cave microbes, and forest canopies." Each of the three sections concludes with an interview. The many excellent color photos portray these adventurers as scientists intently focused on their work, though sometimes in unusual or unusually beautiful surroundings." *Booklist*

The Fabulous Feud of Gilbert & Sullivan, Winter, Jonah, \$16.00, Arthur A. Levine

"Winter's jaunty text follows a time when Sullivan became tired of setting Gilbert's repetitious plots to music--a conflict resolved by composition of *The Mikado*. Egielski's vibrantly colored illustrations, with crisp black outlines and a deep Victorian palette, display a wealth of detail--especially effective when using cutaways to show the theater (onstage, backstage, audience, and even the street outside)." *Booklist* Younger students will connect to the story of friendship while older readers will begin to learn about these two talented musicians.

Faith, Hope, and Ivy June, Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds, \$16.00, Delacorte **Gr 5-8**

During a student exchange program, seventh-graders Ivy June and Catherine share their lives, homes, and communities, and find that although their lifestyles are total opposites they have a lot in common. Told through thoughtful, articulate journal entries interspersed with third-person chapters, this book will transport readers to Kentucky settings, and into two unexpectedly similar lives.

A Family Secret, Huevel, Eric, \$20.00, FSG, **Open Court: 4 Survival (sophisticated)**

While searching his Dutch grandmother's attic for yard sale items, Jeroen finds a scrapbook which leads Gran to tell of her experiences as a girl living in Amsterdam during the Holocaust, when her father was a Nazi sympathizer and Esther, her Jewish best friend, disappeared. A moving graphic novel with art in ink and watercolor, with very clear, highly detailed panels, eight or nine per page.

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The Firefighters, Whiting, Sue, \$14.00, Candlewick **Open Court: Our Neighborhood at Work**

After dressing up as fire fighters, building a fire truck out of a cardboard box, and extinguishing imaginary fires on the playground, Mrs. Iverson's students are surprised by the arrival of a real fire engine with real fire fighters on board. "...acrylic illustrations feature bright, primary colors that stand out against the clean, white backgrounds. The young children are shown exploring the inside of the fire truck alongside their mentors. A great choice for introducing not only fire safety, but also creative play." *SLJ*

A Foot in the Mouth: Poems to Speak, Sing, and Shout*, Janeczko, Paul B., \$16.00, Candlewick, **Gr 2-6

Presents poems that beg to be read aloud. The universally strong poems, expertly tuned to both the anthology's theme and its young audience, include classic and contemporary selections by well-known poets, from Lewis Carroll to Janet S. Wong. Loose categories for one, two, three, and more voices suggest ways to share the poems, and there are also bilingual poems, limericks, tongue twisters, and nonsense verses. "...illustrations emphasize speaker or subject through whimsical combinations of watercolors and torn paper. A collection to savor." *Horn Book*

Frankie Pickle and the Closet of Doom, Wright, Eric, \$10.00, Simon & Schuster, **Gr 2-4**

"When Frankie's mother decides to lay off the nagging, Frankie is allowed to make his own choice about cleaning his room as long as he can "deal with the consequences." For a little while, he deals well. But, as time passes with no visits from the Dryer Sheet Fairy, Frankie's room begins to resemble a dump in both odor and clutter. Wight's hilarious twists of language are matched with a wicked sense of fun in the illustrations and frequent sequential-paneled episodes of pretend play." *Kirkus*

The Georges and the Jewels*, Smiley, Jane, \$17.00, Knopf, **Gr 5-8

Seventh-grader Abby Lovitt grows up on her family's California horse ranch in the 1960s, learning to train the horses her father sells and trying to reconcile her strict religious upbringing with her own ideas about life. "As might be expected from the skilled hands of Smiley (*A Thousand Acres*), there are synchronous story lines, such as the ways an unexpected and spirited colt named Jack becomes accepted into the human and horse families. Many will find it difficult to say goodbye to Abby, Jack and especially to Ornery George." *Publisher's Weekly*

Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Spirin, Gennady, \$16.00, Marshall Cavendish, **Open Court: 2 Sharing Stories**

"Spirin reimagines "Goldilocks" in a Renaissance setting. The spare, familiar text ("Who's been eating my porridge?...Who's been sitting in my chair?") balances the sumptuous watercolor and colored-pencil illustrations' textural detailing, a decorative style in which Spirin excels. An appended "Note About the Story" tells more about the folktale's origins." *Horn Book*

The Goodbye Time, Conway, Celeste, \$15.00, Random House, **Gr 4-6**

The close friendship of two eleven-year-old girls, who live in New York City, begins to unravel as each struggles to deal with a brother who is leaving home. Conway gives children a way to think about the lives of those who have a much more difficult time in a way that is enlightening without being preachy.

The Great and Only Barnum, Fleming, Candace, \$19.00, Schwartz & Wade, **Gr 5-8**

Chronicles the life of showman P. T. Barnum, discussing how he created his legendary circus, the people and events that shaped his life, and the impact Barnum had on the entertainment industry. "Fleming doesn't shrink from Barnum's dark side, painting him as a heavy drinker, a potential corrupter of the dwarf Tom Thumb (who was smoking cigars by age seven), and a cruel husband who hastily married a woman 40 years his junior. The material is inherently juicy, but credit Fleming's vivacious prose, bountiful period illustrations, and copious source notes for fashioning a full picture of one of the forbearers of modern celebrity."

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Have You Ever Seen a Sneep?, Pym, Tasha, \$17.00, FSG, **Gr 3 Imagination**,

“In this deliciously silly rhyming read-aloud from Great Britain, a boy asks readers if they've ever had their picnics pinched by a Sneep or their peaceful reading time ruined by a deafening Snook. He is surprised each time the reader's answer seems to be no and decides if the readers' lives are truly so trouble-free, "I'm coming to live with you!" (Unbeknownst to him, the pesky creatures are right on his heels.)” *Kirkus*

Higher! Higher!, Patricelli, Leslie, \$15.00, Candlewick, **Open Court: PreK I Am Special**

“As an adult pushes a pigtailed girl in a striped sweater and socks on a swing, the child calls out: ‘Higher! Higher!’ The ride gradually takes her from a giraffe's-eye view, to a mountaintop, to an airplane, and finally high enough to trade high fives with a one-eyed, green alien who floats on her own swing among the stars. The pictures then regress to a vantage point that allows readers to review the stages of her upward climb all at once, then return to the playground for a hug and the final word: ‘Again!’ The repetitive text is ideal for new readers, and the cartoon paintings provide plenty of room for imagination. An excellent choice to share at storytime.” *SLJ*

Home on the Range: John A. Lomax and His Cowboy Songs, Hopkinson, Deborah, \$15.00, Putnam

Presents the amazing story of John A. Lomax, the first man to popularize great American folk songs. As a boy in Texas, he listened to the cowboys' songs and wrote each one down. Years later, he convinced cowboys and Gypsies to sing for him and soon he had hundreds of songs preserved for generations to come. “...ink and watercolor illustrations radiate warmth, charm, and humor, highlighting expressive features and striking individuality. The handsome artwork is full of energy and authenticity, and includes faithful and appealing renditions of animals and bucolic landscapes. Excerpts from some songs appear prominently.” *SLJ*

How do you Wokka-Wokka?*, Bluemle, Eilzabeth, \$16.00, Candlewick, **Open Court: PreK I Am Special

“In an infectious burst of movement, rhythm, and rhyme, a multiethnic cast of children in an urban neighborhood strut their stuff and celebrate their uniqueness. In answer to the call, ‘How do you wokka-wokka?’, the youngsters demonstrate their moves – a flamingo, a mariachi, a clock, a fish-all to the sound of giddy nonsense rhymes and exuberant dancing.” An outstanding read aloud.

**How Many Ways Can You Catch a Fly?*, Jenkins, Steve, \$14.00, Houghton Mifflin, 2008

“The authors answer the title question--and five more--on full but not crowded double-page spreads. Spreads feature six animals; each creature (and its method) is varied and vividly presented. Jenkins's detailed cut-paper art is clear; the amount of text is just right; and the page design keeps it all easy on the eyes. Four pages at the back provide more information.” *Horn Book*

How to Scratch a Wombat, French, Jackie, \$14.00, Clarion, **CA Science Gr 4**

“Covers the wombat's ancestry, appearance, feeding habits, minds (such as they are), relations with humans and life cycle. Readers will come away understanding that they are wild animals despite their fondness for carrots and a good scratch on the back and that they can be enjoyable to have around so long as one doesn't mind the occasional broken door or bite on the butt. They are also, as Whatley shows in frequent close-ups and vignettes, impossibly cute.” *SLJ*

Hurry Up and Slow Down, Marlow, Layn, \$17.00, Holiday House, **Gr PreK-1**

“In this gentle opposites-attract story, plodding Tortoise likes to take his time while his energetic friend Hare races from one activity to another, always eager to see what's next. Expansive illustrations in muted springtime shades showcase the adventures of these good friends as they move through their day together, culminating in a shared story time that flies by too fast even for Hare.” *Horn Book*

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I Want to Be Free, Slate, Joseph, \$16.00, Putnam, **CA Vistas Gr 5, Open Court: Gr 4 Risks and Consequences**

A fugitive slave, though still physically shackled, escapes bondage and helps guide a young orphan to freedom. Shadowy, dark watercolors portray their harrowing trek. An author's note explains that the text is based on a Buddhist story retold in Rudyard Kipling's *Kim*. Illustrated with watercolor art.

The Imaginary Garden, Larsen, Andrew, \$15.00, Kids Can Press, **Open Court: 3 Imagination**

'Theo's Poppa no longer has a garden when he moves from his house to an apartment. Instead, grandfather and granddaughter paint one outside on a large canvas on his balcony. The lively pen, ink, and collage illustrations reflect the story's loving intergenerational relationship and show step-by-step how the two cultivate their imaginations.' *Horn Book*

It's a Secret, Burningham, John, \$16.00, Candlewick, **Gr PreK-1**

Marie-Elaine has always wondered where her cat Malcolm goes every night, so one evening she puts on her best party dress, makes herself small, and accompanies Malcolm on a grand adventure through the city.

Itty Bitty, Bell, Cede, \$14.00, Candlewick, **Gr PreK-1**

A story for anyone who has ever felt a little too...little. Itty Bitty, a very tiny dog, finds an enormous bone and decides to burrow into it. However, making a home is no small task, especially for someone so teeny. Bell's acrylic and ink illustrations are bright and dynamic, reinforcing Itty Bitty's optimism and can-do attitude.

January's Sparrow*, Polacco, Patricia, \$22.00, Philomel, **CA Vistas Gr 5, Open Court: 4 Risks and Consequences

"Fleshing out historical events with invented but credible details, Polacco retraces the 1840s flight of the Crosswhite family from slavery to freedom and the dramatic standoff between the residents (black and white both) of the Michigan town where they settled and a band of "paddy rollers" sent to fetch the fugitives back to Kentucky. The illustrations, which include scenes of a bloody whipping and a heavily scarred back, have an urgent, unsettled look that fully captures the sharply felt danger and terror of Sadie's experiences." *SLJ*

Julia Gillian and the Quest for Joy, McGhee, Alison, \$16.00, Scholastic, **Gr 3-5**

"Ten-year-old Julia Gillian's best friend is keeping secrets, their beloved lunch lady was replaced by a tyrant, and trumpet lessons prove difficult, making it hard for her to follow the music teacher's advice to "look for the joy." McGhee's affectionate, humorous portrayal of her protagonist's emotional state reveals a keen perception of elementary-school worries. Kozjan's pen-and-ink drawings animate the characters' high and low notes." *Horn Book*

King's Taster, The, Oppel, Kenneth, \$18.00, HarperCollins, **Gr K-2**

"Cheerful, bespectacled dog Max is the royal food-taster. The new king, a small boy, only "picks and pokes" at his food; even reliable child-pleasers won't do, so Max helps the cook seek new recipes. The story's humor is milked to full effect in both the lively text and well-wrought art, which skillfully incorporates patterns (including scraps of recipes) counterpointing freely applied watercolors." *Horn Book*

Let's Do Nothing*, Fucile, Tony, \$15.00, Candlewick, **Open Court: 3 Imagination

Young friends Frankie and Sal, believing they have "done it all," decide to do nothing for a while, but Frankie has a little trouble with the concept and it is not long before the boys realize there is no way to do nothing. "...The protagonists' doggedness and sympathetic Frankie's amusingly (and self-defeatingly) active imagination are draws; readers will root for the kids. Cartoonish ink, colored-pencil, and acrylic illustrations accompanying the all-dialogue text are uncluttered in a way that suits the story." *Horn Book*

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The Lion and the Mouse, Pinkney, Brian, \$16.00, Little Brown, **Gr PreK-3**

A nearly wordless exploration of Aesop's fable of symbiotic mercy that is nothing short of masterful. A mouse, narrowly escaping an owl at dawn, skitters up what prove to be a male lion's tail and back. Lion releases Mouse in a moment of bemused gentility and--when subsequently ensnared in a poacher's rope trap--reaps the benefit thereof. "Pinkney's soft, multihued strokes make everything in the jungle seem alive, right down to the rocks, as he bleeds color to indicate movement, for instance, when the lion falls free from the net. His luxuriant use of close-ups humanizes his animal characters without idealizing them, and that's no mean feat. In a closing artist's note, Pinkney talks about his choice to forgo text." *Booklist*

Listen to the Wind: The Story of Dr. Greg & Three Cups of Tea*, Mortenson, Greg and Susan L. Roth, \$16.00, Dial, **Gr K-4

This picture book version of the adult book *Three Cups of Tea* tells how Mortenson, an American, built a school in a small Pakistani village. The collage art is welcoming, with figures set against bright backgrounds. An artist's note and "A Korphe Scrapbook" add to the educational appeal that displays photographs of the events, the village's inhabitants, and the librarian who helped to fill this school and the 57 more schools that have since been built in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Little Chick, Hest, Amy, \$16.00, Candlewick, **Gr PreK-2**

"In three affectionate vignettes, patient Old-Auntie hen skillfully guides Little Chick through potential disappointments when her carrot won't grow, her kite won't fly, and she can't stretch high enough to catch the night sky's first star. Suffused with gentle humor and tenderness, the simple text and delicate pencil and watercolor illustrations in springtime shades have a perfect rapport." *Horn Book*

Living Sunlight: How Plants Bring Earth to Life, Bang, Molly, \$15.00, Blue Sky Press, **CA Science Gr 1 (Chapter 1)**

"This account of photosynthesis is narrated by the sun. Shining on every page, it celebrates its power with bursts of bright yellow connecting with the greens of the Earth. Circular paintings emphasize the continuity of nature, while the spare, poetic narrative describes the process of converting energy and carbon dioxide into sugar. Back matter gives further information about the scientific process of photosynthesis." *Horn Book*

Love, Aubrey*, LaFleur, Suzanne, \$16.00, Wendy Lamb Books, **Gr 4-6

While living with her Gram in Vermont, eleven-year-old Aubrey writes letters as a way of dealing with losing her father and sister in a car accident, and then being abandoned by her grief-stricken mother. A heartwarming story of resiliency, hope, and friendship. *

Lucy Long Ago, Thimmesch, Catherine, \$18.00, Houghton Mifflin, **CA Vistas Gr 6**

"Examines the discovery of and research surrounding Lucy, the most complete early hominid skeleton found to date. The text clearly details what scientists are able to extrapolate from Lucy's bones, often by comparing them to our own skeletons and those of other primates. Explanatory sidebars, diagrams, and excellent photographs of fossils and reconstructed hominids round out this substantive package. Websites. Bib., glos., ind." *Horn Book*

The Magician's Elephant*, DiCamillo, Kate, \$16.00, Candlewick, **Gr 4-6

When ten-year-old orphan Peter Augustus Duchene encounters a fortune teller in the marketplace one day who tells him that his sister, who is presumed dead, is in fact alive, he embarks on a remarkable series of adventures in an attempt to find her. "Reading like a fable told long ago, with rich language that begs to be read aloud, this is a magical story about hope and love, loss and home, and of questioning the world versus accepting it as it is." *Kirkus*

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Malice, Wooding, Chris, \$15.00, Scholastic, Gr 5+

This story revolves around an über-underground fantasy-horror comic, *Malice*. Rumor has it that if you perform a certain ritual, you'll be sucked into the comic world by the malevolent Tall Jake. Of course, kids know all about this, and adults haven't a clue, so when Seth and Kady's friend goes missing and is then seen being killed by shadow beings in the pages of the comic, the two head off into the world of *Malice* to investigate. Graphic novel and prose.

Mama Says: a Book of Love for Mothers and Sons, Walker, Rob. D., \$16.00, Blue Sky Press, **Gr K-4**

An elegantly designed book pairs a series of poems with stunning illustrations to celebrate the bond between mothers and sons. Identical in structure, each beginning with "Mama says," the poems appear in English as well as another language. The illustrations, two per poem, are well-researched and lavish, showing mothers in traditional dress lovingly engaged with their sons. A visual notation connects each entry with a glossary of languages in the back.

Man Who Lived in a Hollow Tree, The, Shelby, Anne, \$16.00, Atheneum, ,

Carpenter Harlan Burch makes everything from cradles to coffins. In this folksy narrative, every time he cuts down a tree, he plants two more. One day he finds a giant hollow sycamore tree and moves right in. Tucked inside, he grows older and older, until suddenly his sap rises and he begins to grow young again. His bald head sprouts hair, he grows new teeth, and he takes up dancing, which leads to courtship, marriage, and lots of children. He keeps on living right up to the day he dies at the age of 142. Folksy acrylic on cardboard and linen illustrations accompany this understated tall tale.

Marching for Freedom*, Partridge, Elizabeth, \$20.00, Viking, **Open Court: 6 Taking a Stand

"Much has been written about the Civil Rights Movement, but what has not been documented as well is the role that children played in propelling the movement forward. This book does just that as the Selma, AL, voting rights protests are examined through the eyes of its youngest demonstrators, whose spirit, humor, and grit are clearly exhibited. Effective and meaningful archival photographs, quotes, poems, and songs are woven throughout the narrative, giving readers a real sense of the children's mindset and experiences." *SLJ*

Me and You, Cote, Genevieve, \$16.00, Kids Can Press, **Open Court: K Finding Friends**

This tale of two friends goes ear-to-ear and tail-to-tail between a rabbit and a pig. Standing side by side, each animal is painting a picture and turns to the other, saying: "I wish I were just like you. / My tail would be as curly as a lemon twist. / My tail would be as fluffy as cotton candy." Each spread depicts the silly trade-offs, with the speaker indicated by distinct shifts in typeface, until a mud puddle makes them realize that they really like their differences, which make them even better friends.

Mission Control, This is Apollo, Chaikin, Andrew, \$22.00, Viking, **Open Court: 4 Risks and Consequences**

"Along with being based at least as much on personal interviews as on documentary and other sources, this album-sized history of the Apollo missions is also set apart by its unique illustrations. A former astronaut who walked on the Moon as part of the Apollo 12 crew, Bean has been for many years a full-time fine artist. He incorporates into moonscapes, spacecraft, and suited-up astronauts done over the course of his artistic career not only an unusually personal perspective, but also actual bits of moon dust, used mission patches, and other well-traveled memorabilia. He also provides illuminating, sometimes eloquent commentary in captions and a closing statement." *SLJ*

Moxy Maxwell Does Not Love Practicing the Piano, Gifford, Peggy, \$13.00, Swartz & Wade, **Gr 3-6**

"Prime procrastinator and drama queen Moxy Maxwell is about to take the stage for real, making her Piano Debut at the Palace Theater, playing "Heart and Soul" with her little sister, Patsy. True, there is the scary note from the piano teacher. But how can she practice stopping and not pounding when there is so much else to do to prepare?" *Kirkus*

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Mr. and Mrs. Portly and Their Little Dog, Snack, Jordan, Sandra, \$17.00, FSG, ,

Snack is a very happy puppy when Mrs. Portly adopts him but when persnickety Mr. Portly returns from a fishing trip, he banishes Snack to a doghouse until their mutual love of art, and a thief, bring them together. "...ink-and-watercolor drawings are a delightful mix of sizes and shapes, with the white doggie wisely placed in almost every scene. Exuding warmth, both narrative and pictures transcend the basic plotline, turning this into an irresistible offering." *Booklist*

Mr. Lincoln's High-Tech War, Allen, Thomas B., \$20.00, National Geographic, **CA Vistas Gr 5, Gr 5+**

The Civil War paralleled the early Industrial Revolution and the development of mass-produced armaments. Lincoln encouraged the development and use of the telegraph, aerial observation balloons, ironclad war ships, and the railroad. The authors seamlessly blend these technological advances into the larger historical record of the Civil War.

My People*, Hughes, Langston, \$16.00, Atheneum, **Gr K+

"Reflecting Hughes's powerful words, Smith's sepia-tone photographs depict African Americans across generations. Aged, toil-worn hands represent the past, a mother with child holds onto the present, and hopeful youths look ahead into the future. Text and visuals seamlessly acclaim: 'Beautiful, also, are the souls of my people.' Poetry for all ages and peoples." *Horn Book*
"A note from Smith describes his approach to the 1923 poem. This celebration of the particular and universal will draw a wide audience: storytime participants; students of poetry, photography, and cultural studies; seniors; families. A timely and timeless offering." *SLJ*

My Uncle Emily, Yolen, Jane, \$18.00, Philomel, **Gr 2-5**

"Yolen stitches a story about Emily Dickinson's nephew Gib, a kindred spirit who called the poet 'Uncle Emily.' The book's greatest charm is how its outcome arises from Emily's oblique yet penetrating wisdom. Carpenter's illustrations capture personalities and period in freely sketched portraits resembling old newspaper engravings, with a soft autumnal palette. Fact and fiction are nicely sorted in a concluding note." *Horn Book*

Nevermore: A Photobiography of Edgar Allan Poe, Lange, Karen E., \$18.00, Nat'l Geographic, **Gr 5+**

"This absorbing book sheds light on his childhood, artistic struggles, and inspirations. Using historical photographs and quotations from the poet's letters and works, Lange creates a multidimensional portrait. Poe emerges as a complex man whose influence can still be found in contemporary horror stories, science fiction tales, and mysteries. Timeline, websites. Bib." *Horn Book*

Newsgirl, Ketchum, Liza, \$18.00, Viking, **CA Vistas Gr 4**

Twelve-year-old Amelia Forrester arrives in San Francisco with her family in 1851 and dresses like a boy in the mostly-male town, cutting her hair and wearing a cap to work as a newsboy in order to sell Eastern newspapers and participate in the biggest stories of the day. Unique in its historical depiction of a female-headed family, this spirited and smartly paced feminist take on the Gold Rush era will pair well with Karen Cushman's *The Ballad of Lucy Whipple* (1996).

Nic Bishop Marsupials*, Bishop, Nic, \$18.00, Scholastic, **CA Science Gr 4

Scientist/photographer Nic Bishop now introduces marsupials. This broad-ranging discussion includes the Virginia opossum and related animals in the Americas before turning to the main topic, the varied marsupials of Australia. Large in scale and often exceptionally clear, the many color photos will attract animal lovers to the book.

Oddly, Dunbar, Joyce, \$15.00, Candlewick, **Open Court: K Finding Friends**

An oddly wonderful picture book about love and the comforts of companionship, this story brings together three strange creatures with someone all three of them regard as even stranger: a little boy running along the beach. Each creature is introduced on his own, alone and looking for something

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they can't name. The creatures hold special objects lovingly in their hands. Eventually they ask the boy questions ("What means home?" "Love? What means love?") and console him by sharing their precious objects. In gratitude, the boy gives one a hug, one a snuggle, and holds the hand of the last. A unique offering that sneaks up on you with its sweetness.

OK Go, Berger, Carin, \$16.00, Greenwillow, **Open Court: 1 Things That Go**

"Double-page spreads feature the word go and illustrations of human- and birdlike creatures driving cars. Then a lone citizen yells "STOP!" and admonishes everyone to find another way ("Use your feet, Pete"; "Take a hike, Spike"). The mixed-media illustrations, though chaotic, have verve. Tips for going green conclude this offering." *Horn Book*

Once Upon a Twice, Doyen, Denise, \$16.00, Random House, **Gr K-3**

A cautionary tale, written in nonsense verse similar in style to Lewis Carroll's *Jabberwocky*, in which a brave mouse named Jam breaks the rules and goes on a moonlit adventure. "Ultimately a story of youthful arrogance-or as Doyen calls it, "furry overconfidence"-versus the elders' wise experience, this wonderful book is a marvelous read-aloud that children will want to hear again and again. It is too good to save for Halloween." *SLJ*

One Beetle To Many: The Extraordinary Adventures of Charles Darwin, Lasky, Kathryn, \$18.00, Candlewick, **Gr 3-6**

A straightforward biography of the renowned nineteenth-century biologist who transformed conventional Western thought with his theory of natural evolution. "Large and humorous mixed-media illustrations will draw children to this large-format biography. Using watercolor, graphite pencil, gouache, acrylic ink, colored pencil, and collage, Trueman captures Darwin's world and adventures. Cartoonlike people have prominent noses, expressive faces, and enormous hands. Throughout, the naturalist appears to be both curious and hapless, a description he might have given himself in his own modest journals." *SLJ*

Operation Yes, Holmes, Sara Lewis, \$17.00, Arthur E. Levine, ,

"A lively, often funny novel in which an enthusiastic teacher brings improv to restless sixth graders at a rundown school on a North Carolina Air Force base. Her recruits include Bo, son of the base commander, and Bo's troubled cousin Gari, who joins Bo's family under protest when her mom is redeployed to Iraq. Enduring substandard living conditions, frequent moves and abrupt deployments to far-off wars, these military families are mutually supportive, dedicated to service and proud of what they achieve under considerable stress. The kids warm to Miss Loupe, who teaches them to embrace life's possibilities through the arts, but after her brother is reported missing in Afghanistan, she loses her joyful resilience. As Bo and his friends plot a way to help, Gari must choose between joining them and pursuing a plan to bring her Mom home. Pitched to readers in both military and civilian families, this engaging story avoids larger questions of war and peace, focusing instead on how they affect the lives of American kids who deal with the consequences every day." *Booklist*

Otis, Long, Loren, \$18.00, Philomel, **Open Court: K Finding Friends**

Otis is a fun-loving tractor who roams the fields after a hard day's work and plays in the haystacks. In the barn one night, his engine provides a gentle purr that helps a frightened young calf fall into a peaceful sleep. The two become inseparable. That is, until the farmer decides to upgrade and brings home a brand-new, shiny yellow tractor and relegates Otis to the weeds behind the building. Having outlived his usefulness, Otis just sits there, impervious to the calf's call to play. But when his friend gets stuck in Mud Pond and no one-not even the fire department-can pull her out, the feisty tractor revs his engine and saves the day. His heroism and concern for a friend are themes that will appeal to young readers.

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Our Abe Lincoln: an Old Tune With New Lyrics., Aylesworth, Jim, \$15.00, Scholastic, **Open Court: K Red White and Blue**

“Aylesworth adds verses to a Lincoln campaign ditty (to the tune of "The Old Grey Mare"), starting with Abe as a boy. McClintock bridges the time between then and now by illustrating the song as a school pageant in which youngsters perform in period costumes; spot art reinforces content. This rousing, unusual biography is packed with energy and humor.” *SLJ*

Outla, The Legend of Robin Hood, Lee, Tony, \$24.00, Candlewick, **Gr 6+**

A graphic novel retelling of the legend of Robin Hood, revealing why he decided to become an outlaw in Crusades-era England, fighting for justice rather than personal gain. “Teens will get caught up in this exciting page-turner, which is one of the most dynamic retellings of a classic tale in recent years. In the pantheon of memorable renditions of Robin Hood there was Errol Flynn, there was Daffy Duck-and now there is Tony Lee's Outlaw.” *SLJ*

Peace, Locomotion, Woodson, Jacqueline, \$14.00, Putnam, **Gr 4-7**

Through letters to his little sister, who is living in a different foster home, sixth-grader Lonnie, also known as ‘Locomotion,’ keeps a record of their lives while they are apart, describing his own foster family, including his foster brother who returns home after losing a leg in the Iraq War. “Moving, thought-provoking, and brilliantly executed, this is the rare sequel (to *Locomotion* 2003) that lives up to the promise of its predecessor.” *SLJ*

Pearl and Wagner One Funny Day, McMullan, Kate, \$14.00, Dial, **Gr 1-3**

April Fools' Day turns into a bad day for Wagner the mouse when his best friend, Pearl the rabbit, and other children and adults at school play tricks on him. “The exquisitely crafted story has an endearing blend of humor, humiliation, friendship, and familiar school scenarios. Done in pen and ink, watercolor, and colored pencil, Alley's distinguished illustrations feature a variety of expressive animal characters whose kinesthetic expressions cheerfully depict many of the happenings.” *SLJ*

A Penguin Story, Portis, Antoinette, \$18.00, Collins, **Gr PreK-2**

Edna the penguin tries to find something in her surroundings that is not black, white, or blue. Beautifully designed pages are filled with bold geometric shapes depicting the Antarctic landscapes and the few inhabitants. Uncluttered, stylized illustrations featuring a palate limited to the colors mentioned in the story perfectly catch the droll humor of the simple text. This is sure to provoke many chuckles. Pair with one of the many other titles about penguins.

Pharaoh's Boat, Weitzman, David, \$14.00, Houghton Mifflin, **CA Vistas, Gr 6, Open Court: 6 Ancient Civilizations**

Provides an illustrated account of the construction of Egyptian pharaoh Cheops' funeral boat, and discusses its discovery centuries later during an archaeological dig. *Pharaoh's Boat* offers a unique glimpse into a common activity in ordinary ancient Egyptian life (boat building) instead of being just another book about mummies and pyramids.

Posy, Newbery, Linda, \$15.00, Atheneum, **Gr PreK-K**

“This ode to kittenhood stars an adorable feline named Posy. Generous white space gives her plenty of room to explore Rayner's effectively spare illustrations, mostly sepia-tone with well-placed pops of color. Newbery's creatively descriptive rhyming couplets (“...whiskers wiper, / crayon swiper. / Playful wrangler, / knitting tangler”) make for an entertaining read-aloud.” *SLJ*

Pouch!*, Stein, David Ezra, \$15.00, Putnam, **PreK-1

One day, little Joey peeks out of Mama Kangaroo's pouch and says, "I want to hop!" Each time he leaves his safe haven, he takes more steps, meets a strange new animal, yells out "Pouch!," and hops back to his mama to hide. But when the final animal is another little joey who also yells "Pouch!," the

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two realize there is nothing to fear, have a good laugh, and hop off together. Warm and inviting, this buoyant tale is hopping good fun.

Princess Hyacinth: (The Surprising Tale of a Girl Who Floated), Heide, Florence Parry, \$17.00, Schwartz & Wade, **Gr K-2**

Princess Hyacinth is bored and unhappy sitting in her palace every day because, unless she is weighed down by specially-made clothes, she will float away, but her days are made brighter when kite-flying Boy stops to say hello. "When Hyacinth soars free in a vast pink sky, her figure is tiny and three balloons follow behind, creating a scene of breezy adventure that also feels delicate. Oil-paint backgrounds (shafts of light; antique-hued balloons; soft animal topiary) glow behind the pointy-nosed, active characters. Molly Leach's clever design shows the word "up" repeatedly rising, and one sentence levitates partially off the page--naturally." *Kirkus*

Read It! Don't Eat It!, Schoenherr, Ian, \$16.00, Greenwillow, **Open Court: PreK I Am Special**

A variety of friendly animals learn the do's and don'ts of caring for their beloved books. Spare rhyming text set on solid-color pages provides easily understood advice: "Don't overdue it, just renew it. / (Really, now, there's nothing to it)." Uncluttered ink and acrylic illustrations depict the critters in humorous poses.

Red Blazer Girls, The Ring of Rocamadour, Beil, Michael D., \$15.00, Knopf, **Gr 4-6**

"Catholic-schooled 7th graders Sophie, Margaret, Rebecca, and Leigh Ann help an elderly neighbor solve a puzzle her father left for her estranged daughter twenty years ago. "Besides the mystery, there's Sophie's incipient relationship with a boy friend who is morphing into a boyfriend, as well as her pals' family problems. The girls have to make sure others with more nefarious motives don't find the treasure before they do. The dialogue is fast and funny, the clues are often solvable (except, oy, the math), and even though a bunch of the adult characters are stereotypes, they work in the context of the mystery. More Red Blazer Girls, please." *Booklist*

Red Sings from the Treetops, Sidman, Joyce, \$13.00, Houghton Mifflin, **CA Science, Gr 1**

Sidman rejoices in the way colors, and how we perceive them, change with seasons. In spring, shy "Green peeks from buds" while "Yellow shouts with light!" In winter, "Green waits / in the hearts of trees." Zagarenski's richly patterned mixed-media spreads add texture and extend the imagery, sustaining the playfulness of the text and its senses of awe, mystery, and beauty.

Remember Little Rock: The Time, the People, the Stories, Walker, Paul Robert, \$16.00, National Geographic, **Open Court: Gr 6 Taking Stand**

This book focuses on the bravery of the first nine African American students to attend Little Rock's Central High School and on the people who supported them. A history of segregation provides background. The firsthand accounts and recollections in addition to many archival photographs enhance the main text, bringing immediacy to the students' stories.

Roawr!, Joosse, Barbara, \$14.00, Philomel, **Gr PreK-1**

"A boy's vivid imagination takes him on a late-night bear hunt to protect his mother. Young adventurers will cheer Liam as he outwits his opponent and ends up safely in bed. The text's creativity ("Liam rushed to Mama...but she was snore asleep") amplifies the escapade. Childlike ink, watercolor, and acrylic illustrations blend the worlds of make-believe and reality." *Horn Book* Pair this with Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are* and Mercer Mayer's *There's a Nightmare in My Closet* (Dial, 1968) for a rousing evening adventure that hopefully leads to peaceful dreams.

Scat, Hiaasen, Carl, \$15.00, Knopf, **Gr 5-8**

"Two rascallions plot to dig a pirate oil well on land inhabited by an endangered Florida panther. A couple of teenagers, a crafty codger, and a demanding science teacher get a whiff not only of the panther's scat but also of the men's vintage-Hiaasen swindle. Don't expect any environmental

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preaching in this page-turner (although a few science facts cleverly sneak in)." *Horn Book* This well-written and smoothly plotted story, with fully realized characters, will certainly appeal to mystery lovers.

The Search, Huevel, Eric, \$20.00, FSG, **Gr 5-8**

In this graphic novel, Esther remembers her own experience of the Holocaust as a Jewish girl living in Amsterdam, and recounts to her grandson how she escaped from the Nazis and survived by going into hiding in the countryside. Esther knows her parents were sent to a concentration camp and died there, and she embarks on a search to discover what happened to them. After tracking down an old friend who now lives in Israel, Esther finally learns the shocking story of how her parents met their fates at Auschwitz.

A Season of Gifts*, Peck, Richard, \$16.00, Dial, **Gr 5-8

A companion novel to: *A Long Way from Chicago* and *A Year Down Yonder*. Relates the surprising gifts bestowed on 12 year old Bob Barnhart and his family, who have recently moved to a small Illinois town in 1958, by their larger-than-life neighbor, Mrs. Dowdel. She is a source of entertainment, and some fear, for Bob and his sisters. She proves useful in outsmarting bullies. Her actions exude as much warmth and wisdom as they do hilarity.

The Secret World of Walter Anderson*, Bass, Hester, \$18.00, Candlewick, Fine Arts **Gr 2-6

"This sensitive portrait of Anderson-"the most famous American artist you've never heard of"-paints him as a solitary man who kept a private room hidden from his wife and children and often took his rowboat to the Mississippi Gulf Coast's isolated Horn Island to glean inspiration. Subdued watercolors evoke the artist's love of the natural world, as he paints the coastal setting, eats in the shade of his boat and meanders among wild hogs and raccoons. Following Anderson's death in 1965, his wife opens the room that he kept locked, discovering "the walls were covered with paintings of a Gulf Coast day." A powerful tribute to the lengths artists will go for their passions." *Publisher's Weekly*

Signal*, DeFelice, Cynthia, \$17.00, FSG, **Gr 5-8

"Grief-stricken after his mother dies and struggling with his remote, workaholic dad, Owen, 12, spends the summer running with his beloved dog, Josie, in the woods of upstate New York. One day, he finds a torn, blood-stained T-shirt. It turns out that it belongs to Cam, who says she is an alien and asks Owen to help her make a signal so her loving parents can come from their planet to find her. Even as Owen helps her and considers joining her in space, readers will catch on that she is hiding from Ray, her real mother's abusive, drunken boyfriend. Tension builds as Ray becomes an increasing threat, but the heart of the story is the young people's friendship. They tease each other, laugh together, and also quarrel furiously. Owen's immediate first-person, present-tense narrative shows both his loneliness and bossy Cam's neediness. Always there is his warm bond with Josie, lovingly detailed, and readers will want this for the pet story as well as the suspenseful drama." *Booklist*

Slob, Potter, Ellen, \$16.00, Philomel, **Gr 4-7**

"Owen, nearly a genius and "fifty-seven percent fatter" than average, feels like an outcast at school--especially after someone starts stealing his cookies. Meanwhile, he's working on an invention to view two-year-old signals from a neighborhood deli's surveillance camera, the significance of which is explained late in the story. Owen, a likable kid with a fresh voice, ably navigates the tale's many subplots which begin in a lighthearted adventure but gradually take on a darker tone." *Horn Book*

Small Adventure of Popeye and Elvis, O'Conner, Barbara, \$17.00, FSG, ,

In Fayette, South Carolina, the highlight of Popeye's summer is learning vocabulary words with his grandmother until a motor home gets stuck nearby and Elvis, the oldest boy living inside, joins Popeye in finding the source of strange boats floating down the creek. "Fast-paced, short and easy to

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read, but spiced up with the challenging vocabulary words that his grandmother teaches and Popeye adores and abounding with quirky, likable characters, this small gem has the power to keep readers entranced." *Kirkus*

Snow Day, The, Sakai, Komako, \$15.00, Arthur A. Levine, **PreK-K**

"This story, as quiet as falling snow, evocatively chronicles the noticeable stillness when a little rabbit awakens to his mother's news that "kindergarten's closed." Scrambling to the snow-splotched window, the boy looks wonderingly outside. So begins a very special day that has action and inaction in equal parts. Illustrations in subdued colors with touches of muted red and pale yellow complement the quiet text; together, they evoke the storm's mysterious atmosphere and the comforts of home."

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Storm in the Barn, The*, Phelan, Matt, \$23.00, Candlewick, CA **Vistas, Gr 4

"Ten-year-old Jack and his family suffer the hardships of Dust Bowl America, while a secret in the barn may alter their fortunes forever in this superb graphic-novel evocation of childhood's yearning and triumphs... Great for a wide range of readers, this will work particularly well as a gentle introduction for those new to graphic novels or as an elegant argument on the format's behalf against dubious nay-sayers. A single warning: there is a restrained depiction of a rabbit slaughter, which could upset more sensitive readers." *School Library Journal*

The Super Hungry Dinosaur, Waddell, Martin, \$16.00, Dial, **PreK-2**

"In this sure candidate for many, many repeat read-alouds, young Hal puts up a stout defense when a Super Hungry Dinosaur crashes into his backyard and bellows that he's going to eat him, his father, his mother and his dog Billy. The ensuing wild rumpus ends with the Super Hungry Dinosaur tied down with a garden hose and promising to set the yard back in order--whereupon Hal's mom dishes up a humongous bowl of pasta that converts the Super Hungry Dinosaur into a Super Full Dinosaur."

Kirkus

Sweethearts of Rhythm: The Story of the Greatest All-Girl Swing Band in the World*, Nelson, Marilyn, \$22.00, Dial, **Open Court: 6 Beyond the Notes

A masterful duet in this tribute to an integrated female band that toured the U.S. between the late 1930s and mid-1940s. In 20 poems titled after swing tunes, Nelson writes in the voices of the Sweethearts' instruments, now gathered in a New Orleans pawnshop. Connecting music to greater human truths, the verse strikes nostalgic yet celebratory notes, underscoring how the band's music delivered joy and hope during an era plagued by war and racism." *Publisher's Weekly* Be sure to play some swing music along with the story.

Tale of Two Mice, The, Brown, Ruth, \$15.00, Candlewick, 2008, **Open Court: 1 Being Afraid**

"In the kitchen, mice Billy and Bo find treats--but also a monster ("Just some brooms and mops," assures Bo). Sharp-eyed readers will spot what Billy is actually afraid of: a cat, stalking the mice through each room. Brown's richly detailed acrylic and watercolor illustrations with satisfying lift-the-flaps and one spectacular pop-up are deliciously detailed and creepy." *Horn Book*

Tales from Outer Suburbia*, Tan, Shaun, \$18.00, Arthur A. Levine, 2008 **Gr 5+

Tan follows his wordless epic *The Arrival* with a collection of--stories? fables? dreams? His prose is low-key and expository; the real story here is the pictures. Some display the somber polish of the *Arrival* vignettes; others are full-color, full-page fantasies. Each one has more than enough **power** to seduce the browser into looking closely into its mysteries." *Horn Book* For sophisticated readers.

Teedie: the Story of Young Teddy Roosevelt, Brown, Don, \$15.00, Houghton Mifflin, **Gr 2-5**

Young Teedie builds his frail body and sharp mind, turning an undersized boy into "a larger-than-life man" by entering politics. Events from Roosevelt's life, numerous quotes from his writings, facts, and Brown's signature watercolors work in concert to provide a potent summation of the *Horn Book*

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Thirteenth Child, Wrede, Patricia C., \$16.00, Scholastic, **Gr 5-8**

“Lan is the magical seventh son of a seventh son; sister Eff is a cursed thirteenth child. Their story plays out in an alternate Old West setting lacking Native Americans but occupied by fantasy monsters, a world generously spiced with political and magical mysteries, perils, and conflicts.

Wrede's characters mature in believable ways throughout the book's thirteen-year span.” *Horn Book*

Thumb and the Bad Guys, Roberts, Ken, \$18.00, Groundwood Bks, **Gr 3-5**

“Fed on a diet of bad detective movies, Thumb and his friend Susan decide to try some sleuthing of their own. If you think there are meager possibilities for such in an isolated Canadian coastal village (pop. 143), think again: not only is old Kirk McKenna acting fishy (and easy to track via his copious spitting), but a new teacher has come to town, wearing thick makeup and an obvious wig. With its blend of creepiness, mystery, and humor, this story will be eagerly welcomed by fans of Thumb and Susan, but it stands alone” *Horn Book*

Thunder Boomer!, Crum, Shutta, \$12.00, Clarion, **CA Science Gr 1**

“A girl lies underneath a tree as her brother dabbles his feet in the pond and Mom fans herself with her hat--but soon the atmosphere changes. This satisfying book captures all the drama of a summer storm even as it rewards readers with a small-scale, homey story. The mixed-media illustrations feature luscious color and details brought out in scratchy black ink.” *Horn Book*

Traction Man Meets Turbodog, Grey, Mini, \$17.00, Knopf, 2008, **Gr K-3**

“After ascending Mt. Compost Heap, Scrubbing Brush is tossed into the trash by a conniving villain. Our hero Traction Man (Traction Man Is Here!) is stuck instead with new sidekick Turbodog, whose outbursts don't lend themselves to stealth. Grey extends the first book's irreverent wit and affection for its characters, as the cartoon art follows Traction Man on his quirky expeditions.” *Horn Book*

* *Tricking the Tallyman*, Davies, Jacqueline, \$15.00, Knopf, **CA Vistas: Gr 5, Open Court: 5 Making a New Nation**

“Tallyman Phineas Bump's arrival in 1790 Tunbridge, Vermont, causes consternation. Afraid that a higher count will mean higher taxes, Mrs. Pepper claims herself as the sole inhabitant. Upon learning that the number will also determine representation in Congress, she demands a re-count. In Schindler's detailed illustrations showing meticulous renditions of early settlements, historical features coexist comfortably with tall-tale humor.” *Horn Book* A good choice to read during the year of the census 2010.

* *Truce: The Day the Soldiers Stopped Fighting*, Murphy, Jim, \$20.00, Scholastic, **Gr 5-8**

By December 1918, the western front of World War I featured two parallel trenches stretching from the North Sea to the Alps. The armies, both suffering from exposure and disease as well as enemy fire, were so close that they could sometimes hear each other talking. On Christmas Day, an informal peace broke out in many locations along the front. Soldiers gathered between the trenches to mingle, exchange small gifts, and bury their dead. It was apparently the first truce to come from the troops, rather than their leaders. Printed in tones of sepia, the illustrations in this handsome volume include many period photos as well as paintings and maps.

Tsunami!, Kajikawa, Kimiko, \$15.00, Philomel, **Gr K-3**

Following a mild earthquake, the sea withdraws and villagers run out to explore. But Japanese rice farmer Ojisan remembers his grandfather's tsunami tales. Desperate to save everyone, he ignites his fields, and the villagers rush to his aid. In Kajikawa's simple adaptation of an 1897 story, the dramatic events carry the narrative gracefully, much abetted by Young's gorgeous multimedia collages. A simple story of the power of a simple act.

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Tumtum and Nutmeg, Bearn, Emily, \$16.00, Little Brown, **Gr 2-4**

“Three old-fashioned stories relate the adventures of a kindly mouse couple who "adopts" two human children, inside of whose rundown cottage nestles the rodents' own stately home. It's all very jolly, with lots of cozy-gentility shorthand (scones with jam, cucumber sandwiches, well-stocked picnic hampers), easy-to-hate Dahlian and Grahamean villains, and much derring-do amongst the estimable mice and their trouble-making friend General Marchmouse.” *Horn Book*

A Walk in New York, Rubbino, Salvatore, \$16.00, Candlewick, **Open Court: 1 Journeys**

A boy exploring with his father describes New York City's sites. The story, enriched by child-friendly bits of information, is enlivened by deftly sketched illustrations, with flat areas of added color in such classic city hues as police-uniform blue, glassy gray-green, brick, granite, and taxi yellow. Rounded out with endpaper maps and an index of sites, this is an inviting introduction to NYC.

Washington at Valley Forge, Freedman, Russell, \$24.00, Holiday House, **CA Vistas Gr 5**

“Freedman again illuminates a piece of American history: here, the Revolutionary War, using the winter of 1777-78 as a focal point. His customary graceful prose, eye for the telling detail, and clear narrative arc make this a pleasure to read. Frequent quotations, including first-person reminiscences, and judiciously chosen artistic interpretations add to the appeal of this invitingly designed book. Maps, source notes, timeline. Bib., ind.” *Horn Book*

We're All in the Same Boat, Shapiro, Zachary, \$15.00, Putnam, **Gr K-3**

“With alphabetic aplomb, Shapiro's text describes the animals' restlessness on Noah's ark ("the giraffes were grumpy," "the llamas were livid"). When Noah, out of patience, shouts "We're all in the same boat!" the mood turns around, and the ark sails on "with a promise of peace." Davis's exaggerated cartoon illustrations suit the offbeat style of this creative takeoff on the Bible story.” *Horn Book*

What's Coming for Christmas?, Banks, Kate, \$16.00, FSG, **Gr PreK-2**

While a farm family bustles about, preparing for the arrival of Christmas, they do not notice the great anticipation spreading among the animals, who know that something very special is on its way. What are the animals waiting for so expectantly? The book provides hints, and young readers will find the Christmas Eve birth of a foal satisfying and worth the wait. The paintings, with their luminous color and thick brush strokes, capture the warmth and light of the season.

When a Monster is Born, Taylor, Sean, \$14.00, Roaring Brook Press, **PreK-1**

Presents a story about two different types of monsters that can be born, proposing two alternatives at each step in the plot as the creature goes to school, makes friends, eats principals, falls in love, and more. The hilarious possibilities and the bright mixed-media illustrations against alternating black and white backgrounds make this a great choice for storytime.

When the Whistle Blows, Slayton, Fran Cannon, \$17.00, Philomel, **Gr 6+**

In a short introduction, narrator Jimmy sets the scene: 1940s West Virginia railroad town. Seven episodic chapters follow, one per year, describing events on Halloween night. Jimmy and his brothers make mischief and investigate a long-standing "secret society," and Jimmy bonds with his railroad foreman father. The stories are by turns humorous, sad, uplifting, and nostalgic.

When You Reach Me, Stead, Rebecca, \$15.00, Wendy Lamb Books, **Gr 5-8**

As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1980s television game show, "The \$20,000 Pyramid," a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy the laws of time and space. This unusual, thought-provoking mystery will appeal to several types of readers.

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Where the Mountain Meets the Moon, Lin, Grace, \$16.00, Little Brown, **Gr 3-6**

Minli lives with her desperately poor parents at the confluence of Mountain and the Jade River. While her mother worries and complains about their lot, her father brightens their evenings with storytelling. One day, after a goldfish salesman promises that his wares will bring good luck, Minli spends one of her only two coins in an effort to help her family. After her mother ridicules what she believes to be a foolish purchase, Minli sets out to find the Old Man of the Moon, who, it is told, may impart the true secret to good fortune. Along the way, she finds excitement, danger, humor, magic, and wisdom, and she befriends a flightless dragon, a talking fish, and other companions and helpmates in her quest.

Wink: The Ninja Who Wanted to be Noticed, Phillipps, J. C., \$15.00, Viking, **Gr K-3**

Young Wink is thrilled to attend ninja school. However, he finds his ambitions squashed because his natural exuberance prevents him from being stealthy and silent. When the circus comes to town, Wink discovers (with his grandmother's guidance) how to put his own particular talents to good use. Funny and dynamic cut-paper collages add even more to Wink's already over-the-top personality. This flashy picture book is sure to appeal to a wide audience” *Horn Book*

The Year the Swallows Came Early, Fitzmaurice, Kathryn, \$15.00, Bowen Press, **Gr 4-6**

Eleven-year-old Eleanor "Groovy" Robinson aspires to attend culinary school. However, her plans are suspended after her father is sent to jail and family secrets come to light. Groovy's acceptance of her new circumstance is symbolically mirrored by the annual return of

Years of Dust: The Story of the Dust Bowl, Marrin, Albert, \$22.00, Dutton, **CA Vistas, Gr 4**

Beginning with the cover photograph of a town dwarfed by the thousand-foot-high clouds of a “black blizzard,” this exceptional overview brings close the terrifying, bleak realities of the Dust Bowl. With his usual clear and thorough approach, veteran author Marrin puts the era into both historical and environmental context, starting with the ecology of the Great Plains and moving on to the human behavior that contributed to the catastrophe.

You Never Heard of Sandy Koufax?!, Winter, Jonah, \$16.00, Schwartz/Wade, **Gr 2-4**

Chronicles Koufax's star pitching career. Carrilho's illustrations complement the text, exquisitely capturing the sport's drama with angular, elongated figures; the use of color (red, blue, and, most strikingly, gold) to accent the graphite drawings; and a variety of textures, including an attention-grabbing lenticular cover. Sidebars provide interesting and relevant baseball stats. Websites. Glos.

Yummy: Eight Favorite Fairy Tales, Cousins, Lucy, \$18.00, Candlewick, **Open Court: 1 Let's Read**

Beloved classics are successfully served by these bold, striking renditions. There's no sugarcoating here, as the wolf in "Little Red Riding Hood" is shown receiving his gruesome comeuppance and Henny Penny's friends never return from Foxy Woxy's lair. Large, arresting gouache spreads in Cousins's signature style utilize saturated colors and thick, dark outlines against solid backgrounds.