

THE SPRING BOOK REVIEW



Presented by the Library Science and Instructional Technology Department

Kutztown University

Spring Book Review

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Library Science Program

Dr. Andrea Harmer, Associate Professor, Department Chair

Dr. Michelle Sims, Assistant Professor

Prof. William Jefferson, Associate Professor

Prof. Nancy Latanision, Instructor

Prof. Roseanne Perkins, Instructor

Brenda Martin, Department Secretary

Kim Cowell, Graduate Assistant

The Department of Library Science & Instructional Technology

12 Rohrbach Library
Kutztown University of Pennsylvania
Kutztown, PA 19530
Phone: (610) 683-4300
Fax: (610) 683-1326

E-mail: libsci@kutztown.edu

<http://www2.kutztown.edu/libraryscience>

FALL BOOK REVIEW

Book Lovers- including librarians, professors, teachers, and students-convene for the biannual Book Review Session, in spring and fall, hosted by the Department of Library Science and Instructional Technology at Kutztown University. These energetic gatherings culminate in a selection of books to be reviewed by the attendees. The result of this process is the collection of reviews you hold in your hands.

To the publishers who generously contribute books, year after year, and the reviewers on the following pages...

Thank you for your time and effort!

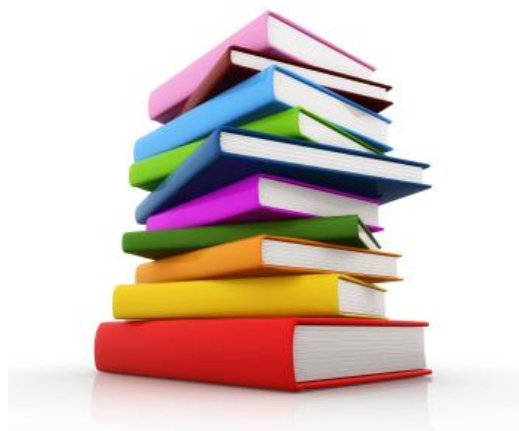


Table of Contents

Title	Author	Page
10 True Tales: Surviving Sharks	Zullo, Allen	51
A Crow of His Own	Lambert, Megan	21
A Homemade Together Christmas	Cocca-Leffler, Maryann	10
A Place for Birds	Stewart, M.	42
A Rock Can Be	Salas, Laura Purdie	37
A Tower of Giraffes: Animals in Groups	Wright, Anna	49
Adele: Soulful Singer	Schwartz, Heather E.	39
Aerospace Engineer: Aprille Ericson	Waxman, Laura Hamilton	47
African Elephants: Massive Trunked Mammals	Hirsch, Rebecca	16
Alice in Wonderland, Down the Rabbit Hole	Carroll, Lewis	30
All Shook Up!	Crozon, Alain	11
Alphabet Trains	Vamos, Samantha	44
An Ambush of Tigers	Rosenthal, Betsy R.	36
Are You Still There?	Scheerger, Sarah	38
Baby Animals: Spots and Stripes	Tildes, Phyllis Limbacher	42

Backlash	Littman, Sarah Darer	23
Beach House	Caswell, Deanna	9
Behold the Beautiful Dung Beetle	Bardoe, Cheryl	3
Big Bear Little Chair	Boyd, Lizi	6
Bigfoot is Missing	Lewis, J. Patrick	22
Budgeting, Spending, and Saving	Kemper, Bitsy	19
Burn Girl	Mikulencak, Mandy	29
Busy Baby: Trucks	Gillingham, Sara	14
Clothesline Clues to Sports People Play	Heling, Kathryn and Deborah Hembrook	16
Computer Engineer: Ruchi Sanghvi	Waxman, Laura Hamilton	48
Cross-Pollination	Boothroyd, Jennifer	5
Desert Food Webs in Action	Fleisher, Paul	14
Diary of a Waitress: The Not-So-Glamorous Life of a Harvey Girl	Meyer, Carolyn	28
Dirty Rats?	Lunde, Darrin	23
Elena Vanishing	Dunkle, Elena and Clare B. Dunkle	13
Experiment with a Plant's Roots	Higgins, Nadia	16
Explorers	Arlon, Penelope and Tony Gordon-Harris	2
Extraordinary People	Hearst, Michael	17
Farm	Deneux, Xavier	12
Fatal Fever: Tracking Down Typhoid Mary	Jarrow, Gail	17

Fish Fish Fish	Nordling, Lee and Meritxell Bosch	29
Glamourpuss	Weeks, Sarah	48
Growing Your Money	Kemper, Bitsy	19
How Do Dinosaurs Stay Safe?	Yolen, Jane	49
I'm New Here	O'Brien, Anne Sibley	30
I Wish You More	Rosenthal, Amy Krouse and Tom Lichtenheld	36
Ink and Ashes	Maetani, Valynne	25
Insect Pollinators	Boothroyd, Jennifer	6
Interstellar Cinderella	Underwood, Deborah	43
Invasion of the Dognappers	Jennings, Patrick	18
Ira's Shakespeare Dream	Armand, Glenda	3
Jaguarundi: Otter Cat	Markovics, Joyce	26
John Muir Wrestles a Waterfall	Danneberg, Julie	11
Key Discoveries in Engineering and Design	Zuchora-Walske, Christine	50
Lately Lily	Player, Micah	33
Leo: A Ghost Story	Barnett, Mac	4
Lizards	Collard, Sneed B.	10
Lorde: Songstress With Style	Schwartz, Heather E.	39
Madame Martin Breaks the Rules	Brannen, Sarah	7
Massacre of the Miners	Anderson, T. Neill	1
Maya's Blanket	Brown, Maya	8
Me and My Dragon: Christmas Spirit	Biedrzycki, David	5
Night On Fire	Kidd, Ronald	20

Octopuses! Strange and Wonderful	Pringle, Laurence	34
Old King Cole	Trapani, Iza	43
One Plastic Bag	Paul, Miranda	32
Peek-A-Boo!	Laden, Nina	21
Pool	Lee, JiHyeon	22
Poppy's Best Paper	Eaddy, Susan	13
Random Body Parts: Gross Anatomy Riddles in Verse	Bulion, Leslie	7
Rodeo Red	Perkins, Maripat	32
Rude Cakes	Watkins, Rowboat	46
Running Dry: The Global Water Crisis	Kallen, Stuart A.	18
Santa Clauses: Short Poems From The North Pole	Raczka, Bob	34
Sleeping Beauty	Gibb, Sarah	37
Space Boy and His Dog	Regan, Dian Curtis	35
Stanley the Builder	Bee, William	4
Star Wars Epic Yarns: A New Hope	Wang, Jack and Holman Wang	44
Star Wars Epic Yarns: Return of the Jedi	Wang, Jack and Holman Wang	45
Star Wars Epic Yarns: The Empire Strikes back	Wang, Jack and Holman Wang	45
Stella Brings the Family	Schiffer, Miriam	38
Swan: The Life and Dance of Anna Pavlova	Snyder, Laurel	41
Tell Me a Tattoo Story	McGhee, Alison	27

Terrorist: Gavrilo Princip, The Assassin Who Ignited the World	Rehr, Henrik	35
The Bear's Surprise	Chaud, Benjamin	9
The Chess Queen Enigma	Gleason, Colleen	15
The Color Thief: A Family's Story of Depression	Peters, Andrew and Polly Peters	33
The Curious Cat Spy Club: The Mystery of the Zorse's Mask	Singleton, Linda	41
The Dreadful Fate of Jonathon York	Merritt, Kory	27
The Other Side of the Wall	Schwartz, Simon	40
The Revelation of Louisa May	MacColl, Michaela	24
The Three Little Pigs Count to 100	Maccarone, Grace	24
The Water and the Wild	Ormsbee, K.E.	31
The Way to School	McCarney, Rosemary	26
Trapped! A Whale's Rescue	Burleigh, Robert	8
Tree of Wonder: The Many Marvelous Lives of a Rainforest	Messner, Kate	28
Trick Arrr Treat: A Pirate Halloween	Kimmelman, Leslie	20
Unicorn on a Roll	Simpson, Dana	40
Urgency Emergency! Humpty's Fall	Archer, Dosh	2
Vehicles	Deneux, Xavier	12
War in My Town	Graziani, E.	15

Yoga for Kids: Simple Animal Poses for Any Age	Pajalunga, Lorena	31
You Nest Here With Me	Yolen, Jane	50

**Reviews Are
Alphabetized By
Author's Last Name**



MASSACRE OF THE MINERS

Anderson, T. Neill. *Massacre of the Miners*. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2015. 9781580895200. \$16.95. Gr 4-8.

This book's title alone should spark the young reader's interest and make them want to pick it up. Who doesn't like to have fun and read a good horror story once in a while? Turns out though, while the book is a work of fiction, the underlying events that shape this horror story are anything but fun. Through a whole cast of colorful characters, the 1914 Ludlow, Colorado coal miner massacre is recounted in graphic detail. Labor relations in the early 1900's were far from cordial. Coal miners had a tough life trying to make a living in the mines. Not only did they face dangerous conditions underground, they were faced with many obstacles above ground as well. The mining companies controlled the lives of the miners from their living arrangements, company store prices, wages, etc... It had gotten so bad between the miners and their employer that the miners decided to strike. Since the company owned the housing in the town, the miners were forced to live in a tent city. Life was tough in these tent cities, but the miners made due. Meanwhile, the mining company was losing money, and was upset with the miners, so the national guard of the time was brought in to "keep the peace". However the mining company had many men sympathetic to the company's position in place with the guard. Tensions gradually escalated, and finally hit a boiling point. Probably no one could pinpoint who fired the first shots, but what happened next could be predicted. A tent city filled with poorly armed miners stood little chance against heavily armed militiamen firing into the camp. The resulting massacre left 20 people dead, which included women and children.

Labor relations did not get magically better after the tragedy, but great attention was brought to the plight of American workers and their struggle with dealing with their employers. The young reader will learn about a crucial part of American history, and they may actually enjoy themselves while doing it. This book would make a nice addition to any collection.

Historical Fiction

Steve Tichy, Cataloger, Tamaqua Public Library

URGENCY EMERGENCY! HUMPTY'S FALL

Archer, Dosh. *Urgency Emergency! Humpty's Fall*. Chicago: Albert Whitman & Company. 2015. 978-0-8075-8356-2. \$12.99. PreK – Grade 1.

Urgency Emergency carries on the story of Humpty Dumpty's famous fall. Beginning with the everyday rituals of a delightful emergency room staffed with a chicken for a doctor and a puppy for a nurse the reader is introduced to hospital care through an uplifting and fearless adventure. Humpty is hurriedly rushed into the facility by penguins, known as "Pengamedics" and wolfish "King's Men" who accompany them. With such a large crack in Humpty Dumpty's head the clever medical staff finds an amusing way to stem the flow of yolk. There is also a strong admonishment given to the King's Men about moving an injured egg. This fast-paced story with its' colorful pictures will definitely be a fun story for the young reader. They will be entertained and informed of proper emergency procedures. When presenting this story to a classroom of children it would be advisable to recite the original nursery rhyme first.

Picture Book

Susan Schlosser, Employee, Tamaqua Public Library

EXPLORERS

Arlon, Penelope, and Tory Gordon-Harris. *Explorers*. New York: Scholastic, 2015. 978-0-545-79122-9. \$12.99. Grades 5 and up.

As a title in the Scholastic Discover More series, *Explorers* entices the reader to "Come on the world's greatest adventures." The text is richly enhanced with illustrations making it a high interest browser or a springboard for research topics. The content covers ancient explorations to under the earth, ocean, and a timeline of contemporary space voyages. A "Hall of Fame" documents little known explorers with interesting facts about their journeys and discoveries. Maps illustrate difficult bold travels. Technological tools explain how evidence was gained from the past. Background is explained giving purpose for the age of exploration. Artifacts, tools, diagrams of ships, landscapes, narratives of what it was like, and examples of dangers bring the stories to life. The book concludes with photos and accounts of contemporary explorers. A glossary and index compliment the text to make the information meaningful and accessible. This title includes the access to a digital companion 21st Century Explorers via a website with special code access. Although there is not in-depth information on any of the topics this is a highly recommended title that will appeal to readers and nonreaders.

Nonfiction

Nancy Latanision, KU Department of Library Science & Instructional Technology

IRA'S SHAKESPEARE DREAM

Armand, Glenda. Illus. Floyd Cooper. *Ira's Shakespeare Dream*. New York, Jade Productions: 2015. 978-1-62014-155-7. \$18.95. Ages 8 and up.

Ira Aldrige's dream was to be an actor. Many discourage him, not because he lacks the talent but rather because he was African American. Ira was born in the nineteenth century before the Civil War. He was lucky to be in New York, a free state.. His father was determined to make him a minister, a humble and steady job, but Ira would not settle. He decided early to follow his dreams. He simply loved acting and Shakespeare. When his father found that Ira was skipping school, he sent Ira to a ministry college. This was when Ira went overseas. He and his friends decided to go to England and make a life there. It was not easy at first, but Ira worked hard and studied his acting skills. He eventually went on to be one of the best actors, especially for his role in *Othello*. The grainy illustrations give the book an old fashion look while still giving it life.

Children's Picture Book

Carla Castro, Library Science Student, Kutztown University.

BEHOLD THE BEAUTIFUL DUNG BEETLE

Bardoe, Cheryl. Illus. Alan Marks. *Behold the Beautiful Dung Beetle*. Watertown: Charlesbridge, 2014. 978158089555. \$16.95. Grade Level K - 3.

Most readers probably don't think dung beetles are beautiful, but this book certainly showcases their usefulness and tells their curious history in a winning way! The simple narrative can be read alone for a story time, and singular readers can also read the short paragraphs on each spread that present more detailed information. More information, a glossary, and bibliography make this book a good resource. Kids will love reading this amusing and informative treasure for pleasure or for research!

Nonfiction

Christine Weida, Children's Librarian, Sinking Spring Public Library

LEO: A GHOST STORY

Barnett, Mac. Illus. Christian Robinson. *Leo: A Ghost Story*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2015. 9781452131566. \$16.99. K-2.

Leo is a little boy ghost who leaves his home after a family moves in and they are frightened by him. He befriends a little girl who thinks that he is an imaginary friend. The story ends sweetly after Leo acts heroically. What I like most about this picture book are the monochromatic illustrations which I think fit well for a story about a ghost. They create a vintage feeling for the book that I feel will make this one a classic. It's much more than just a ghost story. Loneliness and friendship are themes that everyone can understand. Imagination plays another huge part in this storybook. "Leo" will always have a place in story times about Halloween, friendship, playing, and using your imagination.

Picture Book Andrea Haas, Librarian, Sinking Spring Library

STANLEY THE BUILDER

Bee, William. *Stanley the Builder*. Atlanta: Peachtree Publishers, 2014. 978-1-56145-801-1. \$14.95. Ages 6 and up.

Stanley is a cute gerbil who builds homes. The story starts off with a question: "What are Stanley and Myrtle doing?" Myrtle bought a plot of land; she hires Stanley to build her a home on this land. Stanley does not hesitate and gets right to work. He eventually finds the help of his friend Charlie. They go through most of the steps of building the home, such as putting cement, making sure the bricks are straight and even, and even taking a break! When they finish the job, Myrtle was very satisfied and excited with her new home. It just goes to show what a hard day's work can achieve. This plainly written story and illustrations is an average pick for first and second graders. It is not exactly riveting or accurate; homes do not take a day to build. There is not any moral or lesson learned either. It is a rather pointless book.

Children's Picture Book Carla Castro, Library Science Student, Kutztown University

ME AND MY DRAGON: CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

Biedrzycki, David. *Me and My Dragon: Christmas Spirit*. Watertown: Charlesbridge, 2015. 978-1-5808-9622-1. \$17.95. PreK- Gr3.

It's Christmas time and a boy wants to find the perfect gift for his pet dragon. Along the way, we learn what the Christmas spirit is about: Generosity. Though this picture book is part of a series, it can be enjoyed on its own. I haven't read any other *Me and my Dragon* books and I liked the story very much. I would suggest using this in story times for preschoolers to 2nd grade. They would have a lot more fun identifying details shown in the pictures but not mentioned in the text.

The illustrations are cartoony, bright and cheerful with bits of humor for children to discover. My favorite is when the dragon is changing a stinky diaper. Whether or not your theme is about dragons, sharing, or Christmas, this picture book will have a good place in the line-up.

Picture Book Andrea Haas, Librarian, Sinking Spring Library

CROSS-POLLINATION

Boothroyd, Jennifer. *Cross-Pollination*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 2015. 978-1-4677-5737-9. \$23.99. Grades K - 3.

Cross-Pollination is a First Step Nonfiction book and is part of the *Pollination* series. There are five titles in the *Pollination* series. This title has very simple text with large, colorful, full-page photographs. The format puts all informational text at the bottom of the page with chapter headings at the top of the page and short picture captions. The information is clearly and simply explained. Vocabulary words are in bold print. A Table of Contents, Glossary and Index are included. *Cross-Pollination* focuses on three main topics: pollinators, attracting pollinators and helping pollinators. This is a very attractive, introductory, informational text about a very fascinating science topic.

Nonfiction Laura Sweinhart, Librarian, Lower Pottsgrove Elementary Library

INSECT POLLINATORS

Boothroyd, Jennifer. *Insect Pollinators*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 2015. 978-1-4677-5738-6. Grades K – 3.

Insect Pollinators is a First Step Nonfiction book and is part of the *Pollination* series. There are five titles in the *Pollination* series. This title has very simple text with large, colorful, full-page photographs. The format puts all informational text at the bottom of the page with chapter headings at the top of the page and short picture captions. The information is clearly and simply explained. Vocabulary words are in bold print. A Table of Contents, Glossary and Index are included. *Insect Pollinators* focuses on three main topics: how insects pollinate, different kinds of pollinators and how to protect pollinators. This is a great introductory trade book about a fascinating science topic.

Nonfiction **Laura Sweinhart, Librarian, Lower Pottsgrove Elementary Library**

BIG BEAR LITTLE CHAIR

Boyd, Lizi. *Big Bear Little Chair*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books LLC, 2015. 978-1-4521-4447-4. \$16.99. PreK – K.

Upon first examination, the most notable features of this book are its tall, narrow dimensions and its usage of white/black/grayscales with red as the only color. Although bereft of text – picture labeling are the only words used, this four-part book (with each part clearly delineated by a completely red facing page) tells a story. Part one is *Big Bear Little Chair* with pictures of both, followed by *Big Chair Little Bear*, again with pictures of both. Both parts contain six pages with contrasting big and small items. Part three, while again titled *Big Bear Little Chair*, now has both big and little bears standing in front of their big and little chairs, with Little Bear reaching and looking up at Big Bear as if to implore him to place him on his chair so that they may read together! The six following pages introduce something tiny, along with the big and little items. Finally, part four titled *Big Bear Little Bear*, begins with both bears sitting on their respective chairs, followed by a two-page spread summarizing previous pictures with the words, “tiny stories... everywhere!” The use of minimal colors, division of book, and usage of font size and upper case/lower case letters to reflect the size associated with what the text is labeling, is very clever and appealing. Each page can be explored and discussed with small children, as well as looking at the totality of the book. This is a wonderful book for discussing opposites from a size perspective!

Picture Book **Gayle R. Heath, Library Director, Tamaqua Public Library**

MADAME MARTINE BREAKS THE RULES

Branne, Sarah S. *Madame Martine Breaks the Rules*. Chicago: Albert Whitman & Company, 2015. 978-0-8075-4907-0. \$16.99. K-2.

In the sequel to *Madame Martine*, Madame Martine and her dog, Max, always try something new on Saturdays. One thing that they enjoy to do each morning is stop at the café where their friend, Louis, asks them to visit the Louvre where he is one of the museum guards. Madame Martine likes to bring Max along with her wherever she goes and since the museum does not allow dogs she does not want to break the rules. Then one day while walking in Paris Max gets loose and runs to Louis who just happens to be walking to the Louvre. Louis and Madame Martine follow Max throughout the museum where Madame Martine enjoys seeing famous pieces of art such as the *Mona Lisa*. The guards catch up to Madame Martine and her dog but they allow her to stay since she is Louis's friend. This picture book is an enjoyable introduction to the Louvre. French words are included without meaning so it might be somewhat confusing for small children. A small dictionary and a list of the famous pieces of art would have been a great addition to the end of the book. Regardless of that small flaw this book would make a great read aloud and addition to any school or public library.

Picture Book **Sarah Meitzler, Circulation Manager, Lower Macungie Library**

RANDOM BODY PARTS: GROSS ANATOMY RIDDLES IN VERSE

Bulion, Leslie. Illus. Mike Lowery. *Random Body Parts : Gross Anatomy Riddles in Verse*. Atlanta, GA: Peachtree Publishers, 2015. 9781561457373. \$14.95. Gr 4-8.

Caution, fun learning ahead! That would be an accurate description of this book. Want to learn about your body and its many parts, want to solve riddles, want to read some poetry? If the answer to all three of these questions is yes, then this book is for you.... If the answer is only one or two out of the three, then this book is still for you. No less than eighteen body parts are presented for the readers' pleasure. Each body part is introduced by a riddle presented in verse. The answer to the riddle is then given in an informative short paragraph. Surrounding the riddle and answer are fun illustrations depicting the body part being discussed. A glossary, additional illustrations, and an explanation of the poetry contained throughout the book is presented. So, not only does the reader get an anatomy lesson, they are also given a lesson in poetry. Two learning experiences for the price of one! That's a hard deal to beat. With all this going for it, this book would certainly entertain the young reader and make an excellent addition to anyone's bookshelf.

Nonfiction **Steve Tichy, Cataloger, Tamaqua Public Library**

MAYA'S BLANKET/ LA MANTA DE MAYA

Brown, Monica. Illus. David Diaz. *Maya's Blanket / La Manta de Maya*. New York: Children's Book Press, 2015. 978-0892392926. \$17.95. PreK-3.

In this cumulative tale based on a Yiddish folktale, young Maya Morales has a special and magical blanket handmade by her grandmother. As Maya grows and the blanket becomes worn, she alters it into a dress. The dress becomes stained, so she sews it into a skirt. The story continues with the blanket continually evolving into new items. Readers will be anxious to see how the blanket ends up, and how it's magic continues on. The book is written in English and Spanish. The English text keeps the Spanish words for blanket (manta) and each successor (vestido, etc.). Brown's story is endearing, with an extra special ending that is really a new beginning. The mixed media illustrations are fresh and playful. A glossary of Spanish terms is also included. This title would make a great read aloud in an elementary classroom. The author suggests connecting her book to the theme of recycling. Reading teachers may also encourage students to make predictions about what will happen to Maya's blanket.

Picture Book Emily L. Hershey, Reading Specialist, Wilson High School

TRAPPED! A WHALE'S RESCUE

Burleigh, Robert. Illus. Wendell Minor. *Trapped! A Whale's Rescue*. Watertown: Charlesbridge. 2015. 978-1-5808-9558-3. \$17.95. PreS-Gr2.

Beautiful paintings adorn this picture book based on true events where a humpback whale was caught in fishing nets near San Francisco and how humans helped rescue her. Children will learn a lot about the daily habits of humpback whales and the dangers humans pose to sea life. I cannot say enough to describe the beautiful illustrations. There is so much detail and beauty in this book. The final 3 pages offer more detailed information about the event, rescuing whales, as well as more books and resources. This heartwarming story about how humans and animals can live together would make a great addition to school and public library collections.

Nonfiction Andrea Haas, Librarian, Sinking Spring Library

THE BEAR'S SURPRISE

Chaud, Benjamin. *The Bear's Surprise*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books LLC, 2014. 978-1-4521-4028-5. \$17.99. PreK – K.

The third book in the author's *Bear* series and slightly larger than a legal size sheet of paper, this delightful book is teeming with things to see and the very clever placement of cutouts, which tie in with the text and propels the narrative of Little Bear's search. For it is springtime and he just woke up from his long winter's nap and is in search of his papa! His journey begins above ground through the forest and continues through the entrance of a deep, dark hole that takes Little Bear through the exploration of an underground cross-section. He enters a pipe and comes out above ground again, through a washing machine! Catching a glimpse of Papa Bear's fur through a tent opening, Little Bear enters a circus world, with Papa Bear as one of the performers. He gets caught up in the performance, alongside his dad, and ends up on his Mama Bear's nose. Mama Bear is holding a tiny box that contains an even tinier little bear – which just happens to be Little Bear's brother and is the "surprise" referred to in the title of the book. The family travels back home to their cave as the sun sets, and Little Bear welcomes his tiny little brother home. The cutouts are so strategically placed that they are virtually impossible to spy until you lift the page and see the opening. And every page is full of interesting things to discover and talk about with the preschool child. This also would be a great book for preparing a preschooler for a sibling addition.

Picture Book Gayle R. Heath, Library Director, Tamaqua Public Library

BEACH HOUSE

Caswell, Deanna. Illus. Amy June Bates. *Beach House*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books LLC., 2015. 978-1-4521-2408-7. \$16.99. Pre-K through Early Elementary.

The gorgeous illustrations will draw readers in and the rhyming text will move them through a perfectly described family trip to the beach. With very few words, this story describes the beach vacation of everyone's youth. From the moment they park the minivan and stretch out the kinks in their backs, we follow a family as they pack as much fun as possible into the day! Waves splashing, castles crashing, sun so bright while flying kites...noses red when tucked into bed: readers of all ages will be able to relate to this story. The text and illustrations will invoke a sense of nostalgia as families relive their memories of summer days and starry nights. I highly recommend this book!

Picture Book Kim Cowell, Graduate Assistant, Kutztown University

A HOMEMADE TOGETHER CHRISTMAS

Cocca-Leffer, Maryann. *A Homemade Together Christmas*. Chicago: Albert Whitman & Company, 2015. 978-0-8075-3366-6. \$16.99. Picture Book. Grade Level: K-3.

Luca the pig is looking for a way to make Christmas even more special for his family. While unpacking the Christmas decorations his momma mentions that “The homemade ornaments are my favorite.” and his dad echoes the sentiment by saying “Things we make by hand are always the most special.” This gives Luca and his family a great idea! Instead of buying Christmas presents the family decides to make it a homemade Christmas. Everyone is very excited to undertake this endeavor. As Luca begins to think about something good enough for his family, he starts to have some trouble. Everything Luca thinks of is just not quite right. He visits each member of his family, who is already hard at work making the perfect handmade gift. They give him helpful hints, but he ends up with tons of notes with ideas but no actual gift. On Christmas Eve, feeling a little worried, he gets tucked into bed. His mother’s comforting words give him a little inspiration and what he is able to share makes for a memorable family Christmas. This story would appeal to children and families and would make a wonderful addition to libraries and personal collections.

Picture Book Erin Engler, Librarian Whitehall-Coplay School District

LIZARDS

Collard, Sneed B., *Most Fun Book Ever About Lizards*. Watertown, MA. Charlesbridge, 2012. 978-1-58089-324-4. \$16.95. Grades 4-8.

Most Fun Book Ever About Lizards is a well-organized nonfiction book about different types of lizards and topics that affect their survival. The colored photographs are intermingled with text. Subheadings highlight paragraph information. For easy access to information, a Table of Contents, Glossary and Index are included. This book includes a menagerie of pictures and facts about lizards. It is well written and extremely informational. This title would be a great resource for any person considering a lizard as a pet.

Nonfiction Laura Sweinhart, Librarian Lower Pottsgrove Elementary Library

ALL SHOOK UP!

Crozon, Alain. *All Shook Up!* San Francisco: Chronicle Books LLC, 2015. 97814521140131. \$10.99. Grade Level Pre-K - K.

This bright and entertaining board book is great for babies and young children! The simple animal illustrations come to life via various flaps and pop-up action and are sure to grab and hold the viewer's attention. Short sentences about movement complete the theme, making this a perfect book for baby or toddler story times. Some of the flaps are small or complex, making this book best for a story time or a gift; the book may not last long on regular library shelves.

Board Book **Christine Weida, Children's Librarian, Sinking Spring Public Library**

JOHN MUIR WRESTLES A WATERFALL

Danneberg, Julie. Illus. Jamie Hogan. *John Muir Wrestles a Waterfall*. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2015. 978-1-5808-9586-6. \$16.99. Gr 3-5.

This book introduces the young reader to the famous naturalist John Muir. The story relates the tale of John Muir and his climb up Yosemite Falls in 1871. The Yosemite Valley is a pristine, beautiful land, and John Muir was so enthralled with what he saw that he chose to stay in the area. He loved to observe and study nature and write about his experiences and his findings. In this particular story, the waterfall calls to John to explore further. So one night he decides to climb up the falls for a closer look. There was no well-traveled trail, but that didn't stop Muir from embarking on a very dangerous trip up the falls. His passion for the beauty of the falls made him all the more determined to view it up close. After a difficult and harrowing experience, John is successful and he is thrilled. However, he must make his way back down. Once again luck is with him as he makes it back to his cabin exhausted. And so ends just one of John Muir's many adventures. This thrilling tale will hopefully lead the reader to want to learn more about John Muir and his writings and his adventures. This non-fiction book would make a nice addition to any young reader's library.

Nonfiction **Steve Tichy, Cataloger, Tamaqua Public Library**

FARM

Deneux, Xavier. *Farm*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2015. 978-1-4521-4517-4. \$14.99. PreK.

This "TouchThinkLearn" book will delight parents and the youngest of readers alike. The series of board books takes touch and feel to a new dimension with the unique concept of three-dimensional designs that fit into inverted shapes on each opposing page. Toddlers will love to move their hands along the pages, tracing the edges of each drawing. Parents will love the indestructibility of these books, which lack flaps or moveable pieces but still allow viewers to interact tacitly as well as visually. Each set of pages is accompanied by a list of related words that allows the adult reader to tell his or her own story, thus encouraging natural language development. *Farm* includes imaginative drawings and word clusters for donkey, mouse and rabbit, fox and rooster, bird, sheep, pig, horse, and ducklings. An example of the word cluster for bird is beak, nest, straw, nestlings, leaf, branch, chirping, and feeding.

Board Book Emily L. Hershey, Reading Specialist, Wilson High School

VEHICLES

Deneux, Xavier. *Vehicles*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2015. 978-1-4521-4516-7. \$14.99. PreK.

This "TouchThinkLearn" book will delight parents and the youngest of readers alike. The series of board books takes touch and feel to a new dimension with the unique concept of three-dimensional designs that fit into inverted shapes on each opposing page. Toddlers will love to move their hands along the pages, tracing the edges of each drawing. Parents will love the indestructibility of these books, which lack flaps or moveable pieces but still allow viewers to interact tacitly as well as visually. Each set of pages is accompanied by a list of related words that allows the adult reader to tell his or her own story, thus encouraging natural language development. *Vehicles* includes imaginative drawings and word clusters for bus, car, airplane, train, cement mixer, ship, hot air balloon, and spaceship. An example of the word cluster for ship is: smokestack, sail, mast, net, seagull, fish, octopus, jellyfish, sea star, conch shell, ocean, floating, sailing, and fishing.

Board Book Emily L. Hershey, Reading Specialist, Wilson High School

VANISHING

Dunkle, Elena and Clare B. Dunkle. *Elena Vanishing*. San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books LLC, 2015. 978-1-4521-2151-2. \$17.99. Gr 7-up.

Wow, what an eye opener. It's probably a safe bet to say not many people really know what it is like to be an anorexic. Whether the reader is looking about for a book about anorexia because they are suffering from the eating disorder or knows someone with it, or just simply curious about the subject, this book will not disappoint. The book details the life of the author Elena Dunkle and her struggle to cope with her illness. Perhaps cope is too kind of a word and loses the impact of what she was going through. Elena did not really have the life of what would be described as a normal teenager. She lived in a German boarding school, had a sister that had her own set of issues, was raped at an early age, later in life had a miscarriage because of her eating disorder, spent months in treatment centers and hospitals both abroad and in the states, and waged a battle with the voices of her own demons. What a struggle life had become. The mental and physical toll was astounding. To Elena the people trying to help her, from her parents and sister, to the medical staff and friends, were against her. The book reads like a diary of Elena's life since she kept a journal of her experiences, so obviously there will be parts that will make the read a bit slow and hard to get through. But this is only a very small drawback, as the overall story progresses and paints a very good picture of her struggles. Eventually the causes of Elena's disorder are revealed, but there isn't a switch that can be turned on and she miraculously is cured. There are some lines in the book that are especially memorable, "Recovery is a path, not a destination", and "Nothing about eating disorders is simple". Reading about Elena's recovery path is certainly worth the time and shows the reader how complex this illness is.

Autobiography

Steve Tichy, Cataloger, Tamaqua Public Library

POPPY'S BEST PAPER

Eaddy, Susan. Illus. Rosalinde Bonnet. *Poppy's Best Paper*. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2015. 978-1-5809-614-6. \$15.95. K-2.

Poppy, a white furred rabbit, wants to be a famous writer when she grows up. When Poppy's teacher, Mrs. Rose, assigns a writing assignment Poppy believes her paper will be the best. Unfortunately, Poppy gets distracted and does not write a very long paper so the teacher chooses her friend Lavender's paper. Lavender's paper is read aloud to the class. After two attempts at writing the best paper Poppy gets in trouble both at school and at home. Poppy writes about how to get in trouble and is rewarded by her teacher for having the best paper. It was a poor choice for an ending especially since the main character was rewarded for bad behavior. The vocabulary of the picture book is uneven. Some words are on a high reading level for a picture book while other words such as "ringy thingy" are used instead of the word bell. The illustrations are done in ink and watercolor and have a childlike quality to them. This title is not recommended for library collections.

Picture Book

Sarah Meitzler, Circulation Manager, Lower Macungie Library

DESERT FOOD WEBS IN ACTION

Fleisher, Paul. *Desert Food Webs in Action*. Minneapolis, MN. Lerner, 2014. 978-1-4677-1294-1. Grades 2-5.

Desert Food Webs in Action is filled with colored photographs, graphs and maps. The subheadings and picture captions are positive additions to this difficult topic.

The text presents information on a multitude of topics including the location of deserts in the world, plants specific to the desert, plant and meat eaters, decomposition and the ability of people to live in desert areas. A Table of Contents, Glossary, Index and list of books and websites are included for easy access to information and further reading on the topic. This is a very attractive nonfiction trade book. The graphs, charts, pictures and captions make this a definite addition to any science collection.

Nonfiction Laura Sweinhart, Librarian, Lower Pottsgrove Elementary Library

BUSY BABY: TRUCKS

Gillingham, Sara. *Busy Baby: Trucks*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2015. 978-1-4521-4187-9. \$9.99. Pre-K.

Busy Baby has a fun time helping the community in various trucks in this sturdy board book. Cheerful illustrations, sound effects, and short sentences engage the reader, and the baby's face can be flipped to show a happy or a sad face for each page spread. A great way to introduce special forms of transportation, such as tow trucks and fire trucks, this is a fun baby story time book and a great addition for public libraries.

Board Book Christine Weida, Children's Librarian, Sinking Spring Public Library

THE CHESS QUEEN ENIGMA

Gleason, Colleen. *The Chess Queen Enigma*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books LLC, 2015. 978-1-4521-4317-0. \$17.99. Chapter Book. Grade Level: 9-12.

The crime fighting duo of Evaline Stoker and Mina Holmes returns in the third novel in the *Stoker and Holmes* series. Their adventures this time delve into finding a missing chess piece to prevent political scandal, fighting vampires, and the possible resurgence of the Ankh. Dylan finally finds his role in this time period and most of his time is taken up at the hospital where he uses his future knowledge to assist the sick. The story picks up right at the end of the previous novel; Stoker and Holmes (still somewhat shaken by the information about Mina's mother) are asked by Princess Alix and Irene Adler to watch over the Betrovian princess, while finding a missing chess queen piece that is at the heart of a political scandal between England and Betrovia. They fail their duty to watch the princess and are taken off the job but are able to use that down time to find out more information about the possible return of the Ankh. The chapter format continues in the same alternating point of view between Miss Stoker and Miss Holmes. The Steampunk touches continue as well in new small details of the technology used (i.e. the copper dance cards with steam pens, the Midnight Palaces' trolley system) and more is revealed about the Moseley-Haft Act and the ban of electricity. Gleason delves more into the backgrounds of the mysterious Pix and Inspector Grayling helping to establish their character's roles in the five part series. She is able to weave many genres together to create a cohesive novel that any high school level reader will enjoy. The end of the novel reveals more secrets about many of the recurring supporting characters and the Ankh.

Chapter Book **Sara Moyer, Pearson Vue Test Administrator at Reading Area Community College**

WAR IN MY TOWN

Grazini, E. *War in My Town*. Canada: Second Story Press, 2015. 978-1-9275- 8371-5. \$11.95. Print.

Bruna is the youngest of seven children. She lives with her older sister and mother. Her father actually lives in Brazil and she has never met him. Bruna is a young lady who lives in a little village in northern Tuscany. It is a quaint little village but like any other village in Italy during the 1940s, it was under Mussolini, Il Duce, control. Everything seemed pretty normal, but there were whispers of the war. They heard of the Germans and Allies, but everyone in the village did not think it would affect them. Soon, the rumors turned out to be a reality. Bruna's brothers were sent off to the war. Soon, there were only women and the elderly left in the village. The village itself eventually turned into a war zone. This is a story about a young girl trying to grow up in a time of turmoil. She is starting to blossom and take more responsibility within the family, but first she must deal with World War II.

Young Adult **Carla Castro, Library Science Student, Kutztown University**

CLOTHESLINE CLUES TO SPORTS PEOPLE PLAY

Heling, Kathryn and Deborah Hembrook. Illus. Andy Robert Davies. *Clothesline Clues to Sports People Play*. Watertown: Charlesbridge, 2015. 978-1-58089-602-3. \$14.95. Gr. PreK-2.

Every couple of pages of this book focuses on a different sport by describing the clothing and equipment of that activity using fun rhymes. The pictures show the items on a clothesline first and then the reader has to turn the page to see the people playing the sport to reveal it. There is an equal mix of boys and girls shown playing the sports and there is a wide variety of sports represented, such as fencing and archery, but obviously, some sports are left out. It is an educational and engaging picture book. I recommend it.

Picture Book Amber Sams, Librarian, Saucon Valley High School

EXPERIMENT WITH A PLANT'S ROOTS

Higgins, Nadia. *Experiment with a Plant's Roots*. Minneapolis, MN. Lerner Publications, 2015. 978-1-4677-5729-4. Grades K-4.

The *Plant Experiments* series includes six titles. *Experiment with Plant's Roots* is a beginner science text for the youngest readers. The text and large, colorful photographs include very simple hands-on experiments that can be easily performed to demonstrate how roots grow and change. The reader is encouraged to make a plan, observe, predict, collect information and think through the process and procedures. The roots presented are very common and are easily available making this a very practical text to use independently or in conjunction with science curriculum materials. This would be a nice addition to any science lesson involving how plants grow.

Nonfiction Laura Sweinhart, Librarian, Lower Pottsgrove Elementary School

AFRICAN ELEPHANTS: MASSIVE TUSKED MAMMALS

Hirsh, Rebecca. *African Elephants: Massive Tusked Mammals*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications, 2015. 978-14677-5576-4. Grades 3 - 6

African Elephants is one of eight titles included in the *Comparing Animal Traits* series. Charts and diagrams are used to compare elephants to other mammals. There are large colorful photographs of a variety of mammals. Included for easy access to information are a Table of Contents, Index, Glossary, Bibliography, and a list of materials for further reading on related topics. The comparison format is unusual. The "Compare It" charts present both similarities and differences of specific other mammals. The subheading titles compare and contrast the most unlikely mammals. This is a research friendly resource. The format is visually appealing and information will cause the reader to automatically use higher order thinking skills to process the unusual information.

Nonfiction Laura Sweinhart, Librarian, Lower Pottsgrove Elementary School

EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE: A SEMI-COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO SOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST FASCINATING INDIVIDUALS

Hurst, Michael. Illus. Aaron Scamihorn. *Extraordinary People: A Semi-Comprehensive Guide to Some of the World's Most Fascinating Individuals*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books LLC, 2015. 978-1-4521-2709-5. \$16.99. Gr 4-8.

Ruth Wakefield, Wag Dodge, and Rodney Mullen. These 'obscure famous' people and their stories can be found in this book making it a super interesting read. Sure the book covers the standard famous people such as Benjamin Franklin, Mark Twain, etc. Most people know their stories, but this book leans more toward highlighting the lesser known heroes. The cover of the book features Bruce Lee, Evel Knievel, and Marie Curie. These three totally different people should be enough to pique the interest of any reader. A content page lists all people featured in the book, and just based on this page alone, you know immediately this is not one of those boring biography books. This book should not be considered pure biography, as it is structured to have facts, trivia and illustrations about the person. This layout makes reading a fun experience and any young reader would be hard pressed to put the book down before reading all the interesting characters. Simply put, this book is fabulous.

Biography

Steve Tichy, Cataloger, Tamaqua Public Library

FATAL FEVER: TRACKING DOWN TYPHOID MARY

Jarrow, Gail. *Fatal Fever: Tracking Down Typhoid Mary*. Honesdale: Calkins Creek. 2015. 978-1-62091-597-4. \$16.95. Gr: 8 and up.

The month is March, the year 1907 and typhoid fever has struck New York City to the fullest. This disease killed tens of thousands of Americans each year. Being the second installment in a three-part trilogy of books about disease: this book is one of the first that follows a cook who unknowingly spread the disease along with the people who realized what she was doing and decided her fate. The woman's name was Mary Mallon but she was more commonly known as Typhoid Mary during this time. This nonfiction book also goes into great detail about what typhoid was, along with a complete chapter that focuses on the history of public health. Not only does this book follow the life of Mary during this time it also follows George Albert Soper, a sanitation engineer and typhoid expert; and Sara Josephine Baker, a doctor working at the New York City Department of Health. All of these details give readers a very in-depth look at this disease.

Nonfiction

Andrea Dow, Library Science Student, Kutztown University

INVASION OF THE DOGNAPPERS

Jennings, Patrick. *Invasion of the Dognappers*. New York: Eggmont, 2012. 978-1-6068-4287-4. \$15.99. 4-8.

Are aliens kidnapping dogs in Logan's town? He is determined to find out! Mystery and Sci-fi mix in this silly chapter book that would be a good choice for boys, especially if they are a reluctant reader. The chapters are short and offer up a quick read. Don't choose this book for a serious no-nonsense story that debunks aliens. I could see this book as a good choice for a book talk that you want to entice youngsters into reading.

Science Fiction

Andrea Haas, Librarian, Sinking Spring Library

RUNNING DRY: THE GLOBAL WATER CRISIS

Kallen, Stuart A. *Running Dry: The Global Water Crisis*. Minneapolis: Twenty -First Century Books 2015. 978-1-4677-2646-7. \$29.32. Gr 5-8.

Water, water everywhere, but not a drop to drink! Well... maybe we are not at that point just yet, but this book paints a somewhat bleak picture of our global water supply. With only 2 percent of the world's water being classified as fresh, it is essential to have an understanding on what this means to the human race. Pollution (both manmade and natural), climate change, growing populations, and increased industrial use are just a few of the problems that are threatening the drinkable water supply. The book highlights some specific examples of how the fresh water supply is being harmed throughout the world and the many players involved in bringing the water to the faucet. Lax laws, unscrupulous business practices, unresponsive government agencies, and uncaring people are all reasons the world's water supply is in danger. This book's main purpose is to raise awareness of the possible water crisis in the near future. It does not offer any magic solution to the water problems, but no solution can be implemented unless there is recognition of a problem. A young reader may not pick up this book just to read a nice story, but if the reader needs a solid book describing the world's water situation, this would fit the bill. The book comes with ample pictures, bibliography, glossary, and further reading suggestions and would definitely be an asset to any personal library.

Nonfiction

Steve Tichy, Cataloger, Tamaqua Public Library

BUDGETING, SPENDING, AND SAVING

Kemper, Bitsy. *Budgeting, Spending, and Saving*. Minneapolis: Lerner Publications 2015. 978-1-4677-5228-2. \$29.32. Gr 3-7.

This book attempts to teach the reader the basics of spending and saving money. The reader is introduced to the concepts of setting monetary goals, budgeting, and financial choices. For example, spending all available money now will prohibit a more expensive purchase later. Having a financial plan in place is an excellent way to make sure money is there when needed. Throughout the book the reader is presented with financial scenarios. Simple math skills are needed to decide which choice will meet the specific financial goal. The book is certainly directed toward the younger reader as the examples are somewhat simple to understand. This book is one of several in a series from Searchlight books to help the young reader understand the world of finance but in a format that children will understand. This book is a good introduction to the world of finance, as it is never too early to be responsible steward of money."

Nonfiction

Steve Tichy, Cataloger, Tamaqua Public Library

GROWING YOUR MONEY

Kemper, Bitsy. *Growing Your Money*. Minneapolis: Lerner Publications, 2015. 978-1-4677-5230-5. \$27.99. Gr 4-up.

This book is another entry to the series devoted to teaching children about the different aspects of money. This particular book introduces the young reader to several money growing concepts. Starting off with the basics, the concept of compounding interest is introduced followed by stock and bond investing. Advanced investing is introduced with alternate options such as precious metals and real estate. Throughout the book, the reader is presented with various investing scenarios and decision making exercises. Choosing one investment option over another most likely will result in one investment yielding more than the other. Investment terms such as yield, interest, dividends, inflation, and diversification are all introduced. It is hard to cram the complex world of money and investing into a small book geared to young readers, but this book does a nice job of touching on many of the concepts that will be encountered as the reader grows up and has larger amounts of money to invest. For a young person, this book may inspire them to become another Warren Buffet, or maybe not, but at least by reading this book the reader will definitely have a leg up and be prepared for the investment world. Coupled with the other Searchlight books dedicated to educating young readers on financial concepts, this particular book is definitely worth adding to any personal library."

Nonfiction

Steve Tichy, Cataloger, Tamaqua Public Library

NIGHT ON FIRE

Kidd, Ronald. *Night On Fire*. Chicago: Albert Whitman & Company. 2015. 978-0-8075-7024-1. \$16.99. Gr: 7 and up.

This novel, set in Anniston, Alabama tells the story of a thirteen-year-old girl named Billie Simms. Billie shares the unpopular belief that her hometown should be desegregated and she closely follows the journey of the Freedom Riders on television. Of course, television really doesn't show the full story to an issue which is something that Billie learns when the Freedom Riders come through her hometown and she sees how much hatred the people of her hometown have inside them towards people of other race. Billie hops on a bus and follows after the Freedom Riders so that she is able to see their journey up-close-and-personal. She also gets the chance to meet Dr. King, who is her hero. Billie learns that violence isn't the answer and that people can't be judged on the color of their skin.

Historical Fiction

Andrea Dow, Library Science Student, Kutztown University

TRICK ARRR TREAT: A PIRATE HALLOWEEN

Kimmelman, Leslie. Illus. Jorge Monlongo. *Trick Arrr Treat: A Pirate Halloween*. Chicago: Albert Whitman & Company, 2015. 978-0-8075-8061-5. \$16.99. PreK – Grade 2.

Using terse rhyming verses with pirate-associated words and vernacular like "gang, lunging, and loot" and "we be pirates," this book is sure to become a favorite Halloween story with the 4- to 7-year-olds! An imaginary world comes to life as the "gang of pirates" travels from house to house to collect their Halloween candy while calling each other by their pirate names – Charlotte Blue-Tongue and Glass-Eyed Gabby, for example. The refrain, "We be pirates, Trick Arrr Treat," is repeated after several of the verses, giving children a comfortable familiarity with the text. As the "pirate plundering" comes to an end and the children are walking home, they imagine they are ship-bound with a shadowy sea serpent following the vessel. It only turns out to be the neighborhood dog wanting a treat, but this event adds just the right level of fear-factor for the Halloween tome. Finally, when the children reach home, they are greeted with a surprise party, ending the story with a fun twist. The illustrations, which utilize digital techniques with beautiful colors, make the candles in the pumpkins appear to pop and sizzle and the ocean waves spray and foam! A recommended book because not only does it provide a fun Halloween read, but it also gives children an idea of what a pirate's world is like and could be paired with a non-fiction book about pirates to learn more about the swashbuckling buccaneers!

Picture Book

Gayle R. Heath, Library Director, Tamaqua Public Library

PEEK-A-BOO!

Laden, Nina. *Peek-a BOO!* San Francisco: Chronicle Books LLC, 2015. 978-1-4521-3396-6. \$6.99. Infant – PreK.

A companion book to *Peek-a WHO?* and *Peek-a ZOO!*, Laden continues her clever ingenuity with a book celebrating the Halloween season. Using rhyme with seasonal words like boo, brew, flew, goo, and crew, she creates a guessing cut-out book by having the opening sentence of Peek-a on the left side of the page, with the cut-out on the right side of the page. When you turn the page, it reveals the item which only a glimmer of was seen and the Peek-a text is then framed by the cut-out. The images are slightly frightening, without being too scary, and the book ends with a mirrored surface in the face of a ghost in which the reader will see themselves! This is a book that will have much interest to the infant and toddler, while teaching them simple rhyming words and having them recognize themselves.

Board Book

Gayle R. Heath, Library Director, Tamaqua Public Library

A CROW OF HIS OWN

Lambert, Megan Dowd. Illus. David Hyde Costello. *A Crow of His Own*. Watertown: Charlesbridge, 2015. 978-1-58089-447-0. \$16.95. Gr. K-3.

Larry, one of the most incredible roosters that ever lived, has left his farm in pursuit of greater achievements. The farm needs another rooster and Larry's are hard shoes to fill, but Clyde is determined to live up to Larry's legacy. After some failed attempts at grandeur, and skepticism from the rest of the animals, Clyde finally finds his own voice and a new legend begins. The cartoon illustrations have humorous details that will entertain readers who are paying close attention. For example, the chickens are constantly expressing their love of Larry pictorially by scratching messages in the dirt until the end, when Clyde becomes the center of their affections. The snide remarks of the other farm animals are shown in speech bubbles in the pictures. The farmers are two men and it is implied they are a couple, which is not a major factor of the story but still adds some appreciated diversity to the typical farm book category. Children see a supportive character in the motherly goose who encourages Larry during his adjustment stage. There are also some nice vocabulary words sprinkled throughout the text (such as disgruntled, lamented, and implored). This is highly recommended.

Picture Book

Amber Sams, Librarian, Saucon Valley High School

POOL

Lee, JiHyeon. *Pool*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books LLC, 2015. \$16.99. 978-1-4521-4294-4. Picture Book. Grade Level: 1-4.

An unexpected encounter can form a budding friendship between two strangers. That is exactly what happens to a young boy and girl at a public pool. The wordless adventure starts with an empty pool and the young boy about to go into the water. Just before he goes in, a big swath of swimmers runs in taking up all the space. He decides to swim below them and bumps into a young girl doing the same thing. As they swim deeper, they encounter fantastical, colorful fish creatures and whales. The pastel art style conveys the story perfectly and begins in black and white only. Once the children meet under the water, they burst into color along with the fish creatures they imagine they are swimming with. They stay in color after leaving the water, while the rest of the swimmers are still in black and white and leaving from the other side pool. It was included on the *Notable Children's Book List for 2016* by the Association for Library Service to Children, or ALSC. It is a cute story told in wonderful pastel art and is great for the lower elementary level reader building up their visual literacy skills.

Picture Book/Wordless Sara Moyer, Pearson Vue Test Administrator, Reading Area Community College

BIGFOOT IS MISSING

Lewis, J. Patrick and Kenn Nesbit. *Bigfoot is Missing*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books LLC, 2015. 978-1-4521-1895-6. \$17.99. Grade Level: 5-7.

Bigfoot, Kraken, Goatman, Mothman, Loch Ness Monster, Nandi Bear, and the Black Shuck are some of the many creatures that are listed in *Bigfoot is Missing*. These creatures are part of a study of cryptozoology and they are referred to as cryptids. Cryptozoology is the study of hidden animals, or of those that have no proof that they exist. The author presents the information in a creative way for each of the cryptids with big graphic pictures and can include poems or basic information about that particular creature. The author gives examples of cryptids from various parts of the world ranging from the United States of America, England, Australia, Central America, and Africa, among many others. In the back of the book he provides a detailed description and the country of origin for each of the cryptids mentioned so the reader can research more deeply into that beast. The author Gives the reader a fun introduction to the strange world of cryptozoology and is suitable for the upper elementary reading level.

Picture Book Sara Moyer, Pearson Vue Test Administrator, Reading Area Community College

BACKLASH

Littman, Sarah Darer. *Backlash*. New York: Scholastic, 2015. 978-0-5456-5126-4. \$17.99. Grade 9 and up.

After years of being overweight and battling depression, Lara finally feels like her life is on track. She recently made the cheerleading squad and has been talking to a cute guy on Facebook named Christen for two months. She does not even miss her former best friend and neighbor Bree. One day Lara's world crashes around her when Christen decides to publicly ridicule her on Facebook. In her despair Lara tries to take her life. Soon Lara's sister Sydney finds her and she is rushed to the hospital where she survives. After the police investigate the Facebook posts it is soon discovered that Christen never existed. Jumping between Lara, Sydney, her former best friend Bree and her brother Liam's point of view, the events leading up to the night Lara tried to kill herself. It is soon revealed that Bree was the one who created the fake profile out of jealousy of Lara making the cheerleading squad over her. The repercussions of what happens to someone who cyber bullies are brilliantly portrayed in this story. Littman gives a dramatic yet realistic version of a common occurrence between adolescence today. This story is recommended for readers' grade 9 and up. It may be triggering to some, due to the mentions of suicide.

Fiction

Mary Catherine Matta, Student, Kutztown University

DIRTY RATS?

Lunde, Darrin. *Dirty Rats?* Watertown: Charlesbridge, 2015. 978-1-9580-8956-68. \$16.95.

I was drawn to "Dirty Rats?" by the beautiful oil painting artwork. The non-fiction book begins by describing rats in the way most people think about them: As dirty and scary. It changes by explaining how helpful they can be within the field of science or helping spread seeds. The artwork depicts a wide range of different species of rats around the world. Children would be enthralled by the illustrations, picking out all the details of the rats and the different environments shown. This picture book is a great addition to any collection, be it in a school, public library, or the home of a book lover. Simple sentences early in the book could be used for story time for kindergarten age through first grade. The middle pages are a little more advanced in describing different rat behavior. The last few pages offer more detailed information that older children could use for school projects plus some web links on where they could learn more. You may find yourself feeling more empathy for rats!

Nonfiction

Andrea Haas, Librarian, Sinking Spring Library

THE THREE LITTLE PIGS COUNT TO 100

Maccarone, Grace. Illus. Pistacchio. *The Three Little Pigs Count to 100*. Chicago: Albert Whitman & Company, 2015. 978-0-8075-7901-5. \$16.99 Grade Level: K-2.

Mother Pig has two apples and three sons. She cuts those apples in half to make food for four. After that they are out of food and it is time for her to send her three sons out on their own to seek their fortunes. This story then takes a twist on the traditional three little pigs by describing their adventures. Who they meet and what they could use to build their houses carries the story using numbers throughout the entire journey. There are opportunities for children to join in and count a few of the house materials and to identify numbers and shapes. The illustrations in this story are unique and enjoyable. This book would appeal to Kindergarten and early elementary teachers because, not only does the book have a section where you count to 100, but also there is mention of ordinal numbers. The book also illustrates the shapes of cylinders, cones, and cubes. This book would be recommended as a nice addition to an elementary school or public library.

Picture Book Erin Engler, Librarian Whitehall-Coplay School District

THE REVELATION OF LOUISA MAY

MacColl, Michaela. *The Revelation of Louisa May*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2015. 978-1-4521-3357-7. \$16.99. Gr. 7-10.

Young Louisa May Alcott is portrayed much like the fictional character, Jo, from her most famous work, *Little Women*. In this work of fiction, MacColl intertwines much of Alcott's real life with a fictional story that will delight readers even if they are not familiar with the real person. 15 year-old Louisa's family is poor and her mother is forced to leave for a job that will take her away from the house for months. Jo is left to care for the household, her father, Bronson, and her 13 year-old sister, Beth, whose health is fragile. Bronson is a Transcendentalist philosopher who has not earned money from his speeches and essays for years, yet he refuses to compromise his ideals and take a job simply to earn money. Headstrong Louisa and her father are constantly at odds over this fact. The family is also part of the Underground Railroad and has received a new "package" just as Marmee is leaving for her position. Soon after, a sinister slave catcher also arrives in the small town of Concord, MA, and suspects Louisa's involvement. The slave, George, is waiting for his family to arrive before continuing to Canada. Louisa cleverly and aggressively handles the family's affairs, despite her being "just a girl." Her adventures and lively spirit will keep readers entertained and interested. The Alcott's are friends with both Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau, who play large parts in the novel. The end of the novel includes a short biography of Louisa May Alcott that compares her real life to those of the characters in her stories. Readers who are familiar with the novel *Little Women* would have noticed the similarities. I highly recommend this book, especially for young adults with an interest in historical fiction and strong female protagonists.

Historical Fiction Amber Sams, Librarian, Saucon Valley High School

INK AND ASHES

Maetani, Valynne E. *Ink and Ashes*. New York: Lee & Low Books, 2015. 978-1-62014-211-0. \$19.95. Gr. 8-12.

17 year-old Clair Takata's father died when she was seven. What she thought she knew about his life and death is turned upside down when she finds a letter, written in Japanese, from her birth father to her stepfather, proving a relationship that she never knew existed. This sends Claire on a dangerous mission to find the truth about both her fathers. She learns about her birth father's troubled past in the Yakuza, or Japanese mafia, that he left to start over in the United States and her stepfather's actual current line of work, which is not as an antiques dealer. Claire, an athletic tomboy, is our narrator and heroine. She loves her stepfather dearly; he and her mom married soon after her father's death and he adopted the kids. However, she is resentful that her birth father is rarely discussed. Besides the girls on her soccer team, she finds it hard to connect to other young women. Her group of friends, who would do anything for each other, include her two brothers, and three other boys from the neighborhood, all who range in age from 14 to 18. As the only girl, Claire is constantly trying to prove she can take care of herself. Forrest is her best friend, and one of the best looking guys at school. This friendship comes with some romantic tension that will not disappoint readers looking for a love story. As the novel unfolds, readers will try to guess the outcome as clues are dropped and suspects emerge. There are some moments of intense action and injury. Tidbits of Japanese culture, both legal and illegal, are described throughout the book. A glossary of the used Japanese terms is given at the end of the book. I found some descriptions of teenage life and relationships to be a bit cliché and a couple of loose ends were not entirely tied up, but the action and unique topic make this an enjoyable read. I recommend it.

Adventure

Amber Sams, Librarian, Saucon Valley High School

JAGUARUNDI OTTER CAT

Markovics Joyce. *Jaguarundi Otter Cat*. New York, NY: Bearport Publishing, 2013. 978-1-6177-2579-1. \$26.60. Grades 2-5.

Jaguarundi is one of the six titles in *America's Hidden Animal Treasures* series. This is a very unusual animal topic presented with beautiful, full-page colored photographs. Included for easy access to information are a Table of Contents, Glossary, Index, Bibliography, and a list of online and print resources for more reading. The book is visually attractive. The layout of pictures and text is an example of high-quality literature. This would be a wonderful addition to any library that services young children. Any cat lover will surely find the information and photographs fascinating.

Nonfiction **Laura Sweinhart, Librarian Lower Pottsgrove Elementary School**

THE WAY TO SCHOOL

McCarney, Rosemary. *The Way to School*. Toronto: Second Story Press, 2015. 978-1-927583-78-4. \$18.95. K-5.

This nonfiction book, published in partnership with the charity "Plan International", explains and illustrates how students across the world make their way to school. Children from countries such as the Philippines, Japan, China, Cambodia, Colombia, Nepal, and Indonesia are shown overcoming many physical obstacles in order to arrive at school. Due to natural disasters, poverty, or just environment, many children encounter unsafe or risky conditions on their travels. This may be an eye-opening book for children in the United States who are accustomed to very safe travel conditions. They may be surprised that children would go through so much just to get to school. *The Way to School* may spark curiosity and discussion in young learners who may have never considered what the idea of valuing one's education looks like on the other side of the globe.

Picture Book; Nonfiction **Emily L. Hershey, Reading Specialist, Wilson High School**

TELL ME A TATTOO STORY

McGhee, Alison. Illus. Eliza Wheeler. *Tell Me a Tattoo Story*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2016. 978-1-4521-1937-3. \$16.99. Pre-K through Early Elementary.

Don't be fooled by the title of this children's picture book. This story will warm your heart as a young boy tugs on his father's shirt to ask for his favorite bedtime story: the story of his father's tattoos. There is a tattoo for the book his mother used to read to him as a young boy and one that reminds him to be kind. Another reminds him of a pretty girl he met. "Who was she?" the little boy asks. She became his mother. There is a tattoo for the longest trip the father ever took and we see him wearing army fatigues, walking across a foreign land. The bedtime tale begins with the father as a little boy. Along the way he is joined by the young boy's mother and we watch their relationship evolve. Upon close inspection, the reader will note that both mother and father wear matching tattoo wedding bands. The last tattoo is a small heart with numbers inside. This is the father's favorite tattoo: it commemorates the day his son was born. Beautiful watercolor illustrations accompany every page and are rich in detail. This book would be a great addition to any collection!

Picture Book

Kim Cowell, Graduate Assistant, Kutztown University

THE DREADFUL FATE OF JONATHAN YORK: A YARN FOR THE STRANGE AT HEART

Merritt, Kory. *The Dreadful Fate of Jonathan York: A Yarn for the Strange at Heart*. Kansas City: Andrews McMeel. 2015. 9781449471002. \$9.99. Grades 6-9

An odd story deserves quirky artwork and Kory Merritt sure delivers! It feels like a Tim Burton movie in book format. A normal man named Jonathan York ends up lost in a swamp and has to escape from many monsters. At times I couldn't quite say what age level this book is best for because there are references that middle schoolers might not pick up on. I would call this an odd-ball fairy tale even adults would enjoy. With artwork bordering on the creepy side and bizarre situations littered with many forms of humor, middle and high schoolers alike would find this book entertaining.

Graphic Novel

Andrea Haas, Librarian, Sinking Spring Library

TREE OF WONDER: THE MANY MARVELOUS LIVES OF A RAINFOREST TREE

Messner, Kate. Illus. Simona Mulazzani. *Tree of Wonder: The Many Marvelous Lives of a Rainforest Tree*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books LLC, 2015. 978-1-4521-1248-0. \$16.99. K – Grade 3.

Utterly beautiful and amazing informative, we learn in this book that the Almendro tree, otherwise known as the “tree of life,” grows in Latin America’s rainforests and can support and shelter more than a thousand different kinds of organisms! Ten different organisms that depend on this tree are illustrated and described in detail, including approximate numbers that live on one tree, shown by a text number and that many of the organism’s silhouettes, along with the simpler narrative text. The beauty of this book is not only in the illustrations, but in the mathematical construct as the least densely tree-populated organisms are introduced and each successive organism multiplies two-fold, ending with the Leafcutter Ants whose 1,024 numbers are supported by this tree. Additional information about this tree and organizations (with websites) that support conservation of rainforests and their inhabitants are given in the final pages, as are increasingly difficult “Rainforest Math” word problems. This book is a wonderful blend of science, ecology, and math and is highly recommended for every classroom!

Nonfiction

Gayle R. Heath, Library Director, Tamaqua Public Library

DIARY OF A WAITRESS: THE NOT-SO-GLAMOROUS LIFE OF A HARVEY GIRL

Meyer, Carolyn. *Diary of a Waitress: The Not-So-Glamorous Life of a Harvey Girl*. Honesdale, PA: Calkins Creek, 2015. 978-1-62091-652-0. \$17.95. Grades 5 and up.

Kitty Evans dreams of going to college to become a journalist. When her parents reveal that there isn’t enough money to send her, she decides against a small-town job selling shoes and applies to become a Harvey Girl after seeing a help-wanted ad in the paper. Although she is only 16 when she applies, Kitty lies about her age and is hired. The story is written as Kitty’s detail-rich diary, and readers follow her along with her new friends Cordelia and Emmy as they train to be a Harvey Girl and work at several Harvey House restaurants along the railroad from the Midwest to California. While the plot lacks any great tension to drive forward the story, Meyer continues to develop the characters and weave in local characters, places, and history throughout the novel. Readers will learn about some of the social rules and expectations of women during the 1920’s, and they will see how Kitty and her fellow Harvey Girls gained independence, life options, and opportunities for travel by signing up for what was a very demanding and detailed position. Meyer includes romantic plots for some of the characters (including Kitty), but she continues to show strong female characters throughout the book even though the women’s movement itself is not a focus. Several photographs add historical perspectives and details to the story, and a small selected bibliography is included at the end. Fans of historical fiction will enjoy this book, and it could be used in a classroom text set related to social studies topics such as the 1920’s era, railroad life, or women’s studies as well. Recommended for public and school libraries.

Historical Fiction

Karen J. Wanamaker, Librarian, Kutztown University

BURN GIRL

Mikulencak, Mandy. *Burn Girl*. Park Ridge, IL: Albert Whitman & Company, 2015. 978-0-8075-2217-2. \$16.99. Grades 8-12.

This young adult novel centers on 16-year-old Arlene, a girl who has been taking care of herself and her drug addict mother for as long as she can remember. When Arlie was a young girl, she got caught in the explosion of her stepfather's meth lab, causing a permanent scar across her face. At the beginning of the novel, Arlie finds herself on her own after having found her mom dead, overdosed on drugs in the motel room where they had been living. Her only friend Mo helps her get enrolled in school (which she has not been attending for many years) and the authorities track down an uncle she did not know she had. Frank becomes her legal guardian and tries to build her a new life- but it is not all sunshine and rainbows. Lloyd, Arlie's no-good stepdad, is on the run from the police and has tracked down Arlie and her new family. Meanwhile, Arlie has fallen for a boy at school whose affections are mutual. Readers will be sitting on the edge of their seats wondering if Arlie can stand up to Lloyd while keeping her relationships in tact as she betrays the trust of her loved ones over and over again. *Burn Girl* is highly recommended for teenagers interested in reading about tough issues, teen romance, and realistic suspense. There are mature situations (drugs, deplorable living conditions, violence) and some strong language, but descriptions are not graphic. There is a positive depiction of talk therapy for improving mental health.

Realistic Fiction

Emily L. Hershey, Reading Specialist, Wilson High School

FISH FISH FISH

Nordling, Lee, and Bosch, Meritxell. *FISH FISH FISH*. Minneapolis: Graphic Universe, 2015. 978-1-4677-4576-5. \$6.95. Gr: Pre-K and up.

This is one of the first books that I have ever seen set up in this format. It's a picture book that is set up like a graphic novel given the fact that it has paneling, but it is also a book that tells either three separate stories or one story when all the tiles are read together. In fact, the first page of the book shows how the story can be read. If a person reads only the top panels then they will see a yellow fish who swims on his own, the middle panels show a barracuda who eats as much as he can, and the bottom panel shows a school of fish who are always swimming together. There are absolutely no words in this book which make it the perfect first book to introduce graphic novels. The pictures in this book are also delightfully bright and sure to catch and keep the attention of both younger and older eyes.

Graphic Novel

Andrea Dow, Library Science Student, Kutztown University

ALICE IN WONDERLAND: DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE

Nurnberg, Charles and Rhatigan, Joe. Illus. Eric Puybert. *Alice in Wonderland: Down the Rabbit Hole*. Watertown, MA, Charlesbridge Publishing: 2015. 978-1623540494. \$17.95 Ages 7-9.

Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll is an old time classic; something everyone is familiar with. The front of the book has a simple and cute map of this fantasy world. The book introduces Alice, sitting by the lake. She is having an ordinary day when suddenly the White Rabbit runs past her. Mind you, this is not just any old rabbit, but one with a nice red jacket, a pocket watch, and he's in late to some event. As the story goes, Alice falls through the rabbit hole. This story follows her as she struggles finding the perfect size to open doors and get out of houses. The book ends with a rather weak cliffhanger. The retelling by Joe Rhatigan and Charles Nurnberg is mediocre at best. Seeing children get excited about this book seems almost impossible. The illustrations are simple but not eye-catching; nothing to rave about. The rather uninteresting portrayal does not do Carroll's intense imaginary world justice. This can be considered a tolerable introduction to the actual *Alice in Wonderland*, but this is not something I would add to my collection.

Children's Picture Book Carla Castro, Library Science Student, Kutztown University

I'M NEW HERE

O'Brian, Anne Sibley. *I'm New Here*. Watertown: Charlesbridge, 2015. 978-1-58089-612-2. \$16.95. K-3.

This endearing story introduces readers to three young students, just joining a United States classroom for the first time. The author poetically describes what it is like for Maria, Jin, and Fatimah to learn a new language, start to make friends, and assimilate to their new culture. When Maria was in Guatemala, her voices and the voices of her friends "flowed like water and flew between us like birds," but in America, new words "feel like rocks in my mouth." Jin learns to "open" words on a page like he could in Korea, and Fatimah learns to "see the patterns," gaining the confidence to share. Watercolor illustrations expertly complement the text. This would be an excellent book for teachers to help their class understand what it might be like for new students and English language learners to enter the classroom.

Picture Book Emily L. Hershey, Reading Specialist, Wilson High School

THE WATER AND THE WILD

Orsbee, K. E.. *The Water and the Wild*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books LLC. 2015. 978-1-4521-1386-9. \$16.99. Gr:7 and up.

Every year since Lottie's parents have died she's gotten her birthday wish granted from a magical apple tree in her front yard. Although the responses to her requests are sometimes only written they always seem to be just what Lottie needs. The year that her best friend Eliot gets incredibly sick with a disease that the doctors have stopped trying to cure Lottie wishes for Eliot to get better. That year, instead of getting her wish granted two sprites appear and take her through a magic door in an apple tree into their magical world. When Lottie arrives in the world she has to decide if Eliot's life is worth that of the entire sprite population.

Adventure

Andrea Dow, Library Science Student, Kutztown University

YOGA FOR KIDS: SIMPLE ANIMAL POSES FOR ANY AGE

Pajalunga, Lorena V. Illus. Anna Forlati. *Yoga for Kids: Simple Animal Poses for Any Age*. Park Ridge: Albert Whitman & Company, 2015. 978-0-8075-9172-7. \$16.99. PreK-2.

Unlike other *Yoga For Kids'* books, which simply explain how to form different poses, this book is unique in that it is written in story form. The protagonist, whose name is not revealed, talks about how he goes to the zoo to take a yoga class and realizes that the poses are like the animals he sees. When he goes home, he tries each of the poses alongside his cat, Nino, describing how he forms them as well as his cat's participation (or lack thereof). The first person point of view of this book invites kids to do the poses with the young boy, participating in his practice. It also invites curiosity about whether or not his pet cat will join in and how! The last page has some tips for beginner yogis. This book would be great for incorporating movement into the classroom and reaching students whose learning preference is kinesthetic. It would also be nice for discussing emotional intelligence as well as other cultural traditions.

Picture Book; Nonfiction

Emily L. Hershey, Reading Specialist, Wilson High School

ONE PLASTIC BAG: ISATOU CEESAY AND THE RECYCLING WOMEN OF THE GAMBIA

Paul, Miranda. *One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia*. Ill. Elizabeth Zunon. Minneapolis: Millbrook Press, 2015. 978-1-4677-1608-6. \$19.99. Gr. K- 4.

This uniquely illustrated work that tells the true story of the women who were first to reuse plastic bags to create new useful items, such as purses and handbags. Their actions helped women to earn their own money in this area of poverty and to clean up communities. The illustrations picture 3D items, such as plastic bags, to enhance the images. Isatou Ceesay first notices the accumulating plastic bag trash as a teenager. As she enters adulthood, the trash problem is worse and is negatively affecting her life and the lives of those around her. One devastating problem is that the goats, that serve so many purposes for the people of this community, are eating the bags, which then causes them to die. She and other woman of her village start to collect the bags, wash them, and braid them together. They eventually form a successful business selling items made from the reused bags. Other women of neighboring villages are inspired to join the effort and eventually supportive organizations are formed to continue the success. There is a glossary at the end of the book that translates and gives a pronunciation guide for the Gambian words and names used in the book. There is also a short biography of the main character, Isatou Ceesay, with photographs. I highly recommend this book.

Picture Book Amber Sams, Librarian, Saucon Valley High School

RODEO RED

Perkins, Maripat. Illus. Molly Idle. *Rodeo Red*. Atlanta: Peachtree Publishers, 2015. 978-1-5614-5816-5. \$16.95. Grade Pre-K - 2.

Rodeo Red enjoys life as the only child in the house, until baby Slim shows up. She tries to stay away from Slim until he steals her beloved stuffed dog. He won't give up the dog, and she doesn't know what to do, until she receives a present in the mail and makes a trade that makes both of them happy. Told in a hilarious "western" tone (she calls her brother "that cantankerous lemon custard!") and illustrated in an exaggerated and dynamic style, the story will entertain both reader and listener alike. A fun way to introduce children to the idea of compromise or a new younger sibling, this is a wonderful book for any elementary or public library.

Picture Book Christine Weida, Children's Librarian, Sinking Spring Public Library

THE COLOR THIEF: A FAMILY'S STORY OF DEPRESSION

Peter, Andrew Fusek and Polly Peters. Illus. Karin Littlewood. *The Color Thief: A Family's Story of Depression*. Chicago: Albert Whitman & Company, 2015. 978-0-8075-1273-9. \$16.99. Ages 7-10.

"He said that all the colors were gone. Someone had stolen them away..." A little boy's father struggles with depression, and even though the father rightly says that this is not the little boy's fault, the boy still blames himself. Where the child sees color, the father sees gray, and over time that begins to leach the color out of the boy's world. Just as everything has turned gray, the father gets help, and color returns to their world. In this relatable outsider's view of depression, Andrew and Polly Peters really create an accurate portrayal of the effect a parent's mental illness can have on young children. The illustrations - the slow overtaking of the color to grays and blacks, and the return back to color as the father gets help - adds a lot more weight to the story overall. This would be useful for bibliotherapy, even for older kids who are struggling to describe how depression affects them personally.

Nonfiction

Jade Pritz, Alumnus, Kutztown University

LATELY LILY: THE ADVENTURES OF A TRAVELLING GIRL

Player, Micah. *Lately Lily: The Adventures of a Travelling Girl*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books LLC, 2014. 978-1-4521-1525-2. \$16.99. Pre-K-K.

Introduce young readers to the concept of exotic travel with this beautiful book! We follow Lily and her zebra friend through various places and events, from carnivals to art museums, in this mostly pictorial story. Simple upbeat sentences suggest a sense of curiosity and openness to trying new things, giving the book a sense of excitement. The warm illustrations evoking earlier illustration styles will endear the book to both children and their parents. This is a great choice for any library!

Picture Book

Christine Weida, Children's Librarian, Sinking Spring Public Library

OCTOPUSES! STRANGE AND WONDERFUL

Pringle, Laurence. Illus. Meryl Henderson. *Octopuses! Strange and Wonderful*. China: Boyds Mills Press, 2015. 978-1-5907-8928-5. \$16.95. Grade Level 2-4.

Chock full of entertaining and informative facts, this nonfiction book would be great for school or public libraries. A narrative format makes the information easy to absorb, and the short, detailed explanations sprinkled across the pages present the reader with more detailed scientific facts. The illustrations are detailed yet engaging, adding a sense of wonder. A short bibliography and index completes the book, making it a good choice for both pleasure reading and research.

Nonfiction

Christine Weida, Children's Librarian, Sinking Spring Public Library

SANTA CLAUSES: SHORT POEMS FROM THE NORTH POLE

Raczka, Bob. Illus. Chuck Groenink. *Santa Clauses: Short Poems from the North Pole*. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda, 2014. 978-1-4677-1805-9. \$16.95. K-3.

Raczka has created an interesting book of Haiku poems using Santa as the poet. The book begins with a type of "letter to the audience" that draws you in to the poems Santa is writing, leading up to his big day. The Haikus start December first with wishes flooding in through his mailbox. From there, some of the poems focus on what he is doing to prepare for Christmas, while others take a slightly different view of what he is seeing at his home. With Haikus being such short poems the imagery each one incites makes the reader visualize each scenario. The illustrations in this story are imaginative and beautiful. This book is a fresh and unique combination of Haiku poetry and the topics of Santa, Christmas, and everything else that goes with the season from his point of view. This book would be recommended as a charming addition to the poetry section of school and public library and also to personal collections.

Poetry

Erin Engler, Librarian Whitehall-Coplay School District

SPACE BOY AND HIS DOG

Regan, Dian Curtis. Illustrated: Neubecker, Robert. *Space Boy and His Dog*. Honesdale: Boyds Mills Press: 2015. 978-1590789551. \$16.95. 7 and up.

One small step for dog and boy, one large leap for mankind. Niko, his dog, Tag, and his copilot, Radar travel to the moon quite often. You see, Niko is the captain of his own spaceship that he even built himself. He always travels to the moon and comes back to his parents on Earth. He also has a sister too, but she is not in the story. While searching for a new mission, Niko and Radar find out that a cat is missing. They decide to go the Moon and find the cat. Somehow Niko's sister, Posh, ends up on the ship! Posh eventually finds the cat, but this makes Niko upset. Posh is not supposed to be in this story! He leaves her on the Moon, but no one is happy about this. Soon, Niko sees how wrong he was, goes back to find Posh and they all come home safely. This cute little story is about a young boy's imagination gone wild. His physical self never left his own backyard, but his spaceship allowed him to see the stars.

Children's Picture Book

Carla Castro, Student, Kutztown University

TERRORIST: GAVRILO PRINCIP, THE ASSASSIN WHO IGNITED WORLD WAR I

Rehr, Henrik. *Terrorist: Gavrilo Princip, The Assassin Who Ignited World War I*. Minneapolis: Graphic Universe, 2015. \$9.95. 978-1-4677-7284-6. Grades 9-12.

History is full of great and terrible moments and this graphic novel portrays one of the worst times in world history, the beginning of World War I. It presents the events and people leading up to the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in a docudrama format. The reader is introduced to the doomed history with the assassination itself, only pictures telling the story and a black page with the word "Bang" on it. Gavrilo Princip and Archduke Franz Ferdinand were key players to the start of WWI and through the skillful hand of Rehr the reader is taken on a journey from their births to how they were shaped as people to think and act the way they did. Famous photos during that time period are drawn out in a simple black and white style, while others have more of a look of a scratch board etching. There is a nice balance of when the author uses wordless sections to convey a moment in time or when the importance of language is needed. It was included on the *Great Graphic Novels for Teens list for 2016* by the Young Adult Library Services Association, or YALSA. It is recommended for a high school reading level and gives the readers a look into the events and life of one of the most famous terrorists in history before WWI.

Graphic Novel

**Sara Moyer, Pearson Vue Test Administrator, Reading Area
Community College**

I WISH YOU MORE

Rosenthal, Amy Krouse and Tom Lichtenheld. *I Wish You More*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books LLC., 2015. 978-1-4521-2699-9. \$14.99. PreK-K.

I wish you more good than bad. That is the recurring theme in this collection of wishes which accompany simple pictures and text. Wishes for friendship and love, adventure and joy, contentment and wonder are made for the reader who is even more than the author could ever wish for! On the last page, wishes are made as a child stands in a field of dandelions and blows his wishes into the breeze. This is a delightful book for preschoolers to read and will inspire many re-seeding adventures across summer lawns. I recommend this book for anyone who reads to young children.

Picture Book Kim Cowell, Graduate Assistant, Kutztown University

AN AMBUSH OF TIGERS: A WILD GATHERING OF COLLECTIVE NOUNS

Rosenthal, Betsy R. Illus. Jago. *An Ambush of Tigers: A Wild Gathering of Collective Nouns*. Minneapolis: Millbrook Press, 2015. 978-1-4677-1464-8. \$19.99. K – Grade 3.

How do groups of more than two organisms get named? Clues are provided along with the actual name. Immensely entertaining while providing excellent memory links for remembering the collective noun, this book pairs humorous verse in rhyme with clever illustrations. A string of ponies, for example, are illustrated as tied together with string, while a lounge of lizards are illustrated lying on lounge chairs, basking in the sun. The visual image will be more easily remembered and provide another brain pathway for regurgitating the collective noun, making them more permanently remembered. At the end of the book, a glossary is provided for the more commonly used definition of each word used as the collective noun. A prickle of porcupines – the collective noun used for a group of more than two porcupines – actually means, “a small, sharp point, such as a thorn, or what you feel if you touch one.” Thus, again, cementing the union of prickle with porcupine. This is a must-have book for the lower elementary grades to learn one of the more “fun” idiosyncrasies about the English language!

Nonfiction Gayle R. Heath, Library Director, Tamaqua Public Library

SLEEPING BEAUTY

Sage, Alison and Sarah Gibb. *Sleeping Beauty*. Chicago: Albert Whitman & Co., 2015. 978-0-8075-7351-8. \$16.99. Grades K-3.

This is a traditional and sweet version of the sleeping beauty fairy tale. A king and queen are blessed with a baby girl who they call Rosebud. Everyone in the kingdom is invited to a party to celebrate except for one fairy, Malevola. While all the other fairies give kind gifts of beauty or cleverness to Rosebud, Malevola curses her, saying that at the age of sixteen, she, “will prick her finger on a spindle and die.” One last fairy offers her gift, and although Malevola’s curse cannot be completely undone, the pink fairy gives her a 100-year sleep instead of death. Rosebud grows into a lovely young lady, fulfills the prophecy of pricking her finger, and sleeps for 100 years along with everyone else in the castle. When 100 years have passed, Prince Florizel, who has heard a legend of the sleeping beauty, is able to pass through the thick wall of wild roses that has grown around the castle and find his princess. He wakes her with a kiss on the hand, and they live happily ever after. Although the story is a familiar plot with traditional characters, Gibb’s illustrations make this book stand out. Like her *Rapunzel* and *Beauty and the Beast* books, she uses a combination of ink and color and fabric imagery to create beautiful outfits and backgrounds. Her use of silhouettes with washes of watercolor for some of the scenes is particularly striking, and she uses it in several books that she has illustrated. Young readers who are fans of pinks and purples and princess stories will enjoy this as another lovely version of sleeping beauty. It would make a nice addition to a public or a school library, especially ones that need new or additional fairy tale versions.

Picture Book Karen J. Wanamaker, Librarian, Kutztown University

A ROCK CAN BE

Salas, Laura Purdie. Illus. Violeta Dabija. *A Rock Can Be . . .*. Minneapolis: Millbrook Press, 2015. 978-1-4677-2110-3. \$17.99. PreK – Grade 2.

In general, every boy knows how cool rocks can be – but this book really underscores the versatility, beauty, and necessity of rocks that will expand a boy’s appreciation for petrology and perhaps spur a girl’s appreciation! From gems used for sparkling rings to the stones necessary for food grinding in the gizzard of some birds to the liquid rock in the earth’s mantle to the cement used for road and bridge building – every rock has a story and a use. This book stimulates learning more about rocks and what they are used for with the luminous illustrations and simple rhyme. Expand your knowledge by reading the informational text at the back of the book, reading the glossary, or utilizing the suggested “Further Reading” selections given. *A Rock Can Be . . .*, the third book in a series (with the other two being *Water Can Be . . .* and *A Leaf Can Be . . .*) gives names to those items young children collect, and should be part of a complete natural science collection of books for the early elementary grades.

Nonfiction Gayle R. Heath, Library Director, Tamaqua Public Library

ARE YOU STILL THERE

Scheerger, Sarah Lynn. *Are You Still There*. Chicago: Albert Whitman & Company, 2015. 978-0-8075-4557-7. \$16.99. Grades 9 & up.

Gabi was looking forward to a drama-free senior year. Things take a turn when a bomb threat is issued at her school. In the aftermath of finding a bomb on the campus, the community is left on edge. The school ends up setting up an anonymous hotline to help students in need of emotional support, while also collecting tips on who planted a bomb. Gabi being the overachiever she is, volunteers as one of the students fielding the calls. Soon Gabi starts getting messages from the bomber, who calls himself "Stranger". As the messages become more frequent, Gabi starts to suspect everyone she comes in contact with as the possible bomber. The book switches between Gabi's point of view and the Stranger's Manifesto. The alternate point of view gives the reader an insight on who the bomber might be. Slowly it is revealed that the reason behind all of this is due to the suicide of a girl years before. Scheerger gives a suspenseful, yet realistic version of a story that is all too familiar in today's society. Due to the nature of the story this would be suggested for grades 9 and up.

Mystery

Mary Catherine Matta, Student, Kutztown University

STELLA BRINGS THE FAMILY

Schiffer, Miriam B. *Stella Brings the Family*. Illus. Holly Clifton-Brown. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2015. 978-1-4521-1190-2. \$16.99. Gr. K-3.

Stella is concerned about the Mother's Day celebration at her school because she doesn't have a mother; she has two fathers. She discusses her distress with her friends who wonder who does "motherly" things for her, such as make her lunch and kiss her boos-boos better. Stella states that not only do her Daddy and Papa do all of those things, but her extended family does, as well. She decides to bring all of them to the celebration and everyone has a great time. As they are leaving, they are discussing the Father's Day celebration, which causes worry for the boy in the class with two mothers. The overall diversity in this book, and the acceptance and equality message, is fantastic. The illustrations are adorable. Stella's day includes all sorts of activities, such as using clay and playing soccer, which gives a positive image of school. This is highly recommended.

Picture Book

Amber Sams, Librarian, Saucon Valley High School

ADELE: SOULFUL SINGER

Schwartz, Heather E. *Adele: Soulful Singer*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 2015. 978-1-4677-6101-7. \$7.95. Grades 3-8.

We know Adele as the powerful Grammy award winning soul singer diva of many popular hits. This high interest biography, richly illustrated with photographs, tells her story growing from humble beginnings to the international star. As a youngster she learned to play the guitar and clarinet. Her love of music and performing led her to win an audition to the prestigious Brit School for Performing Arts and Technology. She discovered a love of female jazz and blues. She trained her voice to sound passionate and soulful in the likes of Etta James and Ella Fitzgerald. Almost expelled from school she continued to develop her talent. At the age of 18 she became a professional singer entertaining in restaurants, TV, and backing up famous singers on their albums. She wrote her first single in 10 minutes in 2007. She continued with her first hit album and began to perform internationally gaining 4 Grammy nominations. Her next album won 6 Grammys. She added a Golden Globe and Oscar to her collection. A role model and pop icon, Adele's story is told in photos with complementary narration. This short biography in the *Lerner Pop Culture Bios* series will appeal to fans. Available in paperback as well as hardcover this is recommended for collections in need of positive contemporary role models.

Biography

Nancy Latanision, KU Department of Library Science & Instructional Technology

LORDE: SONGSTRESS WITH STYLE

Schwartz, Heather E. *Lorde: Songstress With Style*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 2015. 978-1-4677-6100-0. \$7.95. Grades 3-8.

As one of the titles in the *Lerner Pop Culture Bios*, this book will appeal to music fans. The high interest biography is a visual, photographic journey of the pop star's life. The short pictorial narrative is interspersed with cloud captions for a quick browse or read. In 2014, with impressive stage performance, Lorde won two Grammys after a short year of professional performance. Growing up in New Zealand, Ella Yelich-O'Connor was a quiet girl who loved to read. Her love of words resulted in writing short stories. At the age of 12 she began to write lyrics and joined a band with classmates. She was offered a contract for recording and paired with other songwriters. Recording fame soon followed. Fans will enjoy her story as well as the photos. They will learn of her school years, road to stardom, writing aspirations, and dreams for the future. The high interest, short read includes source notes, further resources, and an index. This is recommended for intermediate and middle school collections in need of positive pop icon role models. This may also be popular in high school collections in need of high interest, lower reading level materials.

Biography

Nancy Latanision, KU Department of Library Science & Instructional Technology

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL

Schwartz, Simon. *The Other Side of the Wall*. Minneapolis: Graphic Universe, 2015. 978-1-4677-6028-7. \$9.99. Gr 4-8.

Achtung! This is the German word for attention; it was also the first word on several signs at the border crossing between East and West Germany when the Berlin Wall was in existence. This border, the area around it, and the people living in that part of the country are the subjects of this graphic novel. Specifically, a family's story to leave the East is told through the young son's eyes. The story of how his parents met, the Socialist influence on their lives, their friendships, the conflicts of points of views, and the relationships among themselves, their friends, and their parents are all brought to light. How confusing it must have been growing up and thinking you only have one set of grandparents, while all the time the only thing separating you from them was a wall. The graphic novel style does a good job educating the young reader about this particular point in history in a way that makes learning fun. For this particular family portrayed, there was a happy ending. For many other families and individuals trying to leave the east for the west, the ending was not so happy. This book will be a quick, enjoyable and educational read for readers of any age.

Graphic Novel

Steve Tichy, Cataloger, Tamaqua Public Library

UNICORN ON A ROLL: ANOTHER PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN ADVENTURE

Simpson, Dana. *Unicorn on a Roll: Another Phoebe and Her Unicorn Adventure*. Kansas City: Andrews McMeel, 2015. 978-1-4494-7076-0. \$9.99. Gr: 2 and up.

This graphic novel is one that female readers of any age will enjoy. It tells many one or two page-long stories of the human Phoebe and her best friend, and unicorn Marigold Heavenly Nostrils. This novel is the second in the series, but readers don't have to have read the first one to know what is going on with the characters. There is a short letter from Lauren Faust (developer of Hasbro's animated television series *My Little Pony: Friendship Is Magic*) that begins the book and tells how the world is changing in the way that it looks at girls and their love of unicorns. The dialogue between Marigold and Phoebe is witty and absolutely hilarious. The illustrations are beautifully cute and vibrant, which add to the whimsical and child-like wonder of the book. This book is perfect for female readers who love friendship, secrets and unicorns who wear only the finest finery.

Graphic Novel

Andrea Dow, Library Science Student, Kutztown University

THE CURIOUS CAT SPY CLUB: THE MYSTERY OF THE ZORZE'S MASK

Singleton, Linda Joy. *The Curious Cat Spy Club: The Mystery of the Zorse's Mask*. Park Ridge: Albert Whitman & Company, 2015. 978-0-8075-1378-1. \$14.99. Grade Level 4-7.

This is the second book in a series about 3 friends who put their "spy" skills to use by solving animal-related mysteries. The trio navigates the drama of middle school as well as interacting with adults, making this a more relatable tale for fans of Nancy Drew and similar books. A fast pace makes the 250-page book a page-turner for mystery, realistic fiction, and animal lovers alike! Elementary, middle school, and public libraries would all benefit from adding this series to their shelves.

Mystery

Christine Weida, Children's Librarian, Sinking Spring Public Library

SWAN: THE LIFE AND DANCE OF ANNA PAVLOVA

Snyder, Laurel. Illus. Julie Morstad. *Swan: The Life and Dance of Anna Pavlova*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books LLC, 2015. \$11.99. 978-1-4521-1890-1. Picture Book. Grade Level: 1-4

In history there have been many famous ballet dancers and Anna Pavlova is one of them. Born in 1881 Russia, she lives with her mother a struggling laundress. As a young girl she had the chance to see a ballet and her new dream was born. She auditioned for the Imperial Ballet School and was able to get in after a wait period of two years. She worked at perfecting and developing her art until she became a soloist that performed all over the world to the rich and poor, never forgetting her humble beginnings. She was forever the dancer famous for The Dying Swan and her 30 year career ended when she passed away in 1931. The art style is in watercolor color pencil and adds a whimsical flair to Anna's story. There is a detailed information page of her life for the young reader to explore at the end of the book. It was chosen for the *Notable Children's Book list for 2016* by Library Service to Children or ALSC. The author presents her life in a way that makes it an easy read for the lower elementary level reader and the art compliments the story and shows her beautiful dancing.

Picture Book

Sara Moyer, Pearson Vue Test Administrator, Reading Area Community College

A PLACE FOR BIRDS

Stewart, Melissa. Illus. Higgins Bond. *A Place for Birds*. Atlanta: Peach Tree Publishers, 2015. 978-1-56145-840-0. \$7.95. All ages.

Ever wonder about various creatures of flight and where they can be found? Readers of all ages would enjoy this book, which is exploding with facts about birds. Children will learn many interesting truths as they are introduced to the behaviors and protection of such important friends in the environment. Splashes of details specific to different kinds of birds, such as the Bald Eagle, Eastern Bluebird, and the Northern Cardinal, are purposely positioned throughout the pages to highlight some of the most interesting types of birds. The illustrations display a realistic, beautiful tone that welcomes the readers on a journey in flight alongside these amazing animals. Bright, colorful illustrations capture the simple yet bold characteristics of the birds and their environments. The beginning and ending pages contain various maps of where the birds can be found displayed in this book. This book was awarded the honor of being named an *Outstanding Science Trade Book* by the National Science Teachers' Association; it would make a wonderful addition to any home or classroom library.

Picture Book; Nonfiction

Michele L. White, Professor, Kutztown University

BABY ANIMALS SPOTS & STRIPES

Tildes, Phyllis Limbacher. *Baby Animals Spots & Stripes*. Watertown: Charlesbridge, 2015. 978-1-58089-608-5. \$6.95. Infant – PreK.

Featuring high-contrast black and white illustrations, which research has found stimulates an infant's eyesight and brain development, this board book features eight baby organisms – two in each of the four categories of mammals, birds, reptiles, and fishes. Each picture mainly illustrates the concept of stripes or spots. The background of each picture alternates from black to white, making the book more interesting. The pictures are quite cuddly-looking: the duckling and owlet look fuzzy and the rabbit and raccoon look squeezable. The book concludes with a full-color two-page spread of a black girl and a white boy playing with toys that mimic the eight organisms introduced in the previous pages. The children are also wearing clothing that is clearly striped or spotted, opening up conversation about patterns on clothing and not just animals. It would be fun to try and have the child match the black and white illustration to the full-color toy depiction of the organism.

Board Book

Gayle R. Heath, Library Director, Tamaqua Public Library

OLD KING COLE

Trapani, Iza. *Old King Cole*. Watertown: Charlesbridge, 2015. 978-1-58089-632-0. \$15.95. PreK-2

In this version of *Old King Cole*, Trapanzi expands on the original nursery rhyme by adding her own additional stanzas including other nursery rhyme and folktale characters. All the nursery rhyme characters gather for Old King Cole's Ball, but unfortunately Old King Cole falls asleep. Nursery rhyme characters such as Little Bo Beep and her sheep, Little Boy Blue, Old Mother Hubbard, and the Three Little Pigs try to wake Old King Cole unsuccessfully. The Queen of Hearts with her tarts revives Old King Cole so the ball can continue. At the end of the book there is sheet music for the nursery rhyme. Trapani's bold watercolor and pencil drawings add another dimension to the rhyme. This book would make a great read aloud with predictions of who will wake the king to how the king will be woken up. Children will have fun trying to identify all the different nursery rhyme characters. Like Trapanzi's other nursery rhyme titles, this book should be added to school and public library collections.

Nursery Rhyme

Sarah Meitzler, Circulation Manager, Lower Macungie Library

INTERSTELLAR CINDERELLA

Underwood, Deborah. Illus. Meg Hunt. *Interstellar Cinderella*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books LLC, 2015. 978-1-4521-2532-9. \$16.99. Grades K-3.

There are no fancy ball gowns and glass slippers for this Cinderella! From the opening lines ("Once upon a planetoid, amid her tools and sprockets, a girl named Cinderella dreamed of fixing fancy rockets.") you know that *Interstellar Cinderella* is going to be a new take on the traditional tale, a Cinderella for the STEAM generation or any reader who would be more comfortable in a Makerspace than a formal dance. Like the traditional tale, Underwood includes a prince with a party (a royal space parade), a mean step family, and an obstacle that stands between Cinderella and the action. In this version, though, Cinderella fixes a broken space ship in order to attend the parade with the help of her "fairy godrobot," some new tools, and a new space suit, and a "power gem" to power her ship. As the prince arrives at the parade, his ship is smoking, and his chief mechanic has quit. Cinderella to the rescue! She fixes his ship; they talk all night; and at midnight she leaves (before the power gem fades), but she leaves behind her sonic socket wrench. The prince searches, finds her, and asks her to be his bride. But *Interstellar Cinderella* isn't ready for marriage. Instead she agrees to be his chief mechanic! Underwood's girl-powered version is sure to bring smiles to young readers. The story is fresh but familiar, which will pull in readers. Hunt's mixed-method illustrations add just the right combination of quirkiness and boldness to accompany the story and support the bold and quirky nature of this Cinderella. Underwood's rhyming text would be a good read-aloud, and the book would be a good addition to both public and school libraries.

Picture Book

Karen J. Wanamaker, Librarian, Kutztown University

ALPHABET TRAINS

Vamos, Samantha R. Illus. Ryan O'Rourke. *Alphabet Trains*. Watertown: Charlesbridge, 2015. 978-1-58089-592-7. \$14.95. K – Grade 2.

All aboard to read and enjoy learning your letters! Both upper and lower case letters are inserted in fun and easy-to-find illustrations. This story also presents the various ways in which the railroad industry differs. *Alphabet Train* carries a young reader's imagination through many different lands of the world. As one reads on you are presented with simple, yet colorful and informative illustrations from Amtrak's Auto Train to Sweden's Glacier Express, with many other fascinating train rides to be considered. Several letters of the alphabet are used as bridges, smoke plumes, cargo and trees. Children should have a fun time in finding the many adaptations the letters can accomplish. There also are rhyming words on opposing pages to be heard and articulated. Once past the alphabet, Vamos has supplied a thorough description of all the trains that were included in this story. Alphabet Trains will definitely delight a true train enthusiast.

Nonfiction

Susan Schlosser, Employee, Tamaqua Public Library

STAR WARS EPIC YARNS: A NEW HOPE

Wang, Jack and Holman Wang. *Star Wars Epic Yarns: A New Hope*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books LLC, 2015. ISBN: 978-1-4521-3393-5. \$9.99. Preschool and up.

The *Star Wars: A New Hope* is recreated in this very cute board book depicting important scenes from the film. Jack and Holman Wang created twelve iconic images and presented them in expertly crafted needle felt art. It took a year to create the figures and they are very well done. They paired it with 12 words that are associated with the needle felt scene accompanying it. Even though it is aimed for a very young reader who is developing their vocabulary skills, it presents words that are tied to far higher concepts that may be lost to them. It appeals more to the parent who has nostalgia for the films and is a way to share the movies with their young ones. The *Star Wars Yarn* series does do a good job of presenting the film in a way that makes the parent come up with creative ways of telling the story of *Star Wars: A New Hope* to their young one.

Board Book

**Sara Moyer, Pearson Vue Test Administrator, Reading Area
Community College**

STAR WARS EPIC YARNS: RETURN OF THE JEDI

Wang, Jack, and Holman Wang. *Star Wars Epic Yarns: Return of the Jedi*. San Francisco: Chronicle, 2015. 978-1-4521-3500-7. \$9.95. Pre-K through 2.

Younger readers will enjoy *Star Wars Epic Yarns: Return of the Jedi* for its use of a topic that is currently popular in society. The book only contains twelve words along with twelve pictures but it is simply adorable. Each of the pictures in the book is an intricately detailed and handcrafted scene that tells the tale of a familiar story for older readers as well. The pictures are all made up of complex scenes, all of which are made from felt and other small things such as mulch, dirt, and of course yarn (as the title of the series would suggest). Another interesting thing that the book has is the corners are almost rounded off, so parents don't have to worry about their young readers getting jabbed with the sharp corners that board books usually have. This book is a great addition to any library where younger *Star Wars* fans will frequently visit!

Board Book

Andrea Dow, Library Science Student, Kutztown University

STAR WARS EPIC YARNS: THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK

Wang, Jack and Holman Wang. *Star Wars Epic Yarns: The Empire Strikes Back*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books LLC, 2015. 978-1-4521-3499-4. \$9.95. Pre-K and up.

The Wang brothers return with another light-speed retelling of a *Star Wars* episode. Like their other books, each of the twelve spreads is accompanied by a single word on the left page and a recreated scene from the movie on the right that has been photographed with the felted characters. *The Empire Strikes Back* is brilliantly reduced to snow, run, teacher, force, friend, foe, kiss, frozen, dark, father, no!, and goodbye. While readers who lack a knowledge of the full storyline or who have not seen the movie will not get nearly as much out of the books, those readers (young and old) who are *Star Wars* fans will enjoy this book as a fun way to introduce new readers to the series or even as a collectable. Those readers who are also crafters might even get inspiration from the detailed crafting of the layered sets and the characters, which the brothers create from scratch. More information about how the brothers create the books is available online at: <http://www.starwars.com/video/star-wars-epic-yarns-behind-the-scenes>. Although the board-book format would indicate that the target audience is toddlers (who will enjoy the images and what appears to be action shots), the vocabulary, specific scenes, and felted characters may be better appreciated by older children or adults. This book would make a great gift to *Star Wars* fans, and it would be a fun addition to public or school libraries.

Board Book

Karen J. Wanamaker, Librarian, Kutztown University

RUDE CAKES

Watkins, Rowboat. *Rude Cakes*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2015. 978-1-4521-3851-0. \$12.83. Pre-K to K.

What will it take to make a very rude cake change its ways? A polite Cyclops, of course. In this unconventional tale about a rude cake who gets a lesson in manners, Rowboat Watkins creates two different societies of sorts - one that is rude, and one that is polite. A very polite Cyclops plucks one not-very-sweet little cake out of his world, where he is mistaken for a hat. More and more Cyclopes come to (politely) admire the first Cyclops' hat, ignoring the little cake's assertion that he is not a hat. What will it take to get the cake home again?

Sweet as pie with just a hint of strange humor that would appeal to most children, Watkins takes an idea that is being brought up over and over again by parents and teachers and makes it original. The concept is fresh, and the simple art style allows the message to shine brighter. Children will enjoy the humorous story with its strange characters, while parents will appreciate their children getting an enjoyable lesson about the importance of manners.

Picture Book Jade Pritz, Alumnus, Kutztown University

AEROSPACE ENGINEER: APRILLE ERICSSON

Waxman, Laura Hamilton. *Aerospace Engineer: Aprille Ericsson*. Minneapolis: Learner, 2015. 978-1-4677-5793-5. \$19.99. Gr. 4-8.

One of the books in the *Lerner STEM Trailblazer Bios* series this is focused on attracting girls and minorities to the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math national initiative. The highly attractive format includes high interest illustrations as well as a narrative that appeals to all readers. The text is divided into 5 short chapters that tell Aprille's story from her dream to sharing the dream. Growing up in a poor neighborhood in Brooklyn, Aprille aspired to be an astronaut. Her interest in math and science blossomed in middle school. Even though she worked hard she was not a good student. She attained a high school scholarship for a school in Cambridge, Massachusetts. As a top student she was accepted into a special program at MIT for minority students interested in engineering. When she used a flight simulator she gained her passion for a career in aerospace. Graduating from high school with top honors, Aprille enrolled at MIT to study engineering in air and space travel. There were very few women in this discipline at that time. The story documents her trials, tribulations, and inspirations. She landed a job with NASA and chased her dreams. She went on to Howard University where she studied large space structures such as the International Space Station. While at Howard she gained a position with NASA as an aerospace engineer while she was still going to school. She earned a Ph.D. and was the first African American woman with the distinction of earning this mechanical engineering degree with aerospace option. Aprille still works at NASA researching and designing satellites that explore space. She also works on environmental projects such as studies of the polar ice caps. The book concludes with her wish to inspire others. This is a high interest story that will inspire those who feel that this type of success may be out of reach. This title is recommended for collections that need STEM, female, and minority career biographies. Notes, glossary, and an index are included.

Biography

Nancy Latanision, Department of Library Science & Instructional Technology

COMPUTER ENGINEER: RUCHI SANGHVI

Waxman, Laura Hamilton. *Computer Engineer: Ruchi Sanghvi*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 2015. 978-1-4677-5794-2. \$22.65. Grades 2-5.

Girls in engineering is a hot topic. This title is one in a series of Lerner's STEM Trailblazer Bios. Born in India, Ruchi grew up alongside her father in his industrial equipment business. She also learned of the Indian traditions that could hamper her dream of a career in a man's world. She decided to study for a career in computer engineering in the United States at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. She could then come back to India to apply her skills to her father's business. Her parents agreed with the condition that she return to India upon graduation and marry, as is tradition. Ruchi went on to earn her Master's Degree and decided to stay in the United States a bit longer. She landed a job with a start-up company called Facebook in New York City. Ruchi led a project to develop the Facebook platform, a huge task, but she and her team pulled it off. Trials, tribulations, risks, and Indian traditions sometimes made life difficult. She persevered, received a TechFellow Award, married a college friend, and began her own startup companies. The author relates a realistic success story to which young readers can relate to and be inspired by. Richly illustrated, the text is interspersed with Tech Talk boxes and even addressed the issue of immigration. Source notes, a glossary, index, timeline, and resources for further information are included. This book is recommended for collections which need readable, high interest biographies focused on the success of girls in science with a multicultural background.

Biography

Nancy Latanision, KU Department of Library Science & Instructional Technology

GLAMOURPUSS

Weeks, Sarah. Illus. David Small. *Glamourpuss*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2015. 978-0-545-60954-8, \$16.99. K-2.

Glamourpuss is treated like a princess by her owners Mr. and Mrs. Highhorses. This white fur ball of a cat seems to have it all, a mansion to live in, her own room, gifts, servants, and dinner at the table. Glamourpuss who is full of poise and grace enjoys practicing being glamorous in the mirror just like the Evil Queen. Then everything changes when Bluebelle, a Chihuahua, comes for a visit. Bluebelle does all kinds of tricks to impress her owner and Glamourpuss's owners. Not only can this dog do tricks but she wears dresses while performing. Glamourpuss is shocked to hear that the owners think Bluebelle is more glamorous than Glamourpuss. Then hope is in sight when Glamourpuss discovers Bluebelle destroying her clothes and room. It turns out Bluebelle doesn't enjoy wearing costumes and doing tricks. Glamourpuss decides to become friends with Bluebelle and show her how to be glamorous like Glamourpuss. The watercolor, ink, pastel, and collage illustrations add so much humor to the story with a lot of pink and frilly additions. Both boys and girls will enjoy this funny tale which can be read aloud or silently. *Glamourpuss* might even remind readers of the similarities of the cat from the Disney Cinderella movie or the mirror admiring to Disney's Snow White. Children will be asking for a sequel and looking for the book at school and public libraries.

Picture Book

Sarah Meitzler, Circulation Manager, Lower Macungie Library

A TOWER OF GIRAFFES: ANIMALS IN GROUPS

Wright, Anna. *A Tower of Giraffes: Animals in Groups*. Watertown: Quarto Publishing, 2015. 978-1-58089-707-5. \$17.95.

Almost everyone has friends and many of them travel in groups. *A Tower of Giraffes* talks about animals and their collective nouns; their group names. It even has a small English lesson in what a collective noun is. This book talks about many different animals, such as droves of pigs, romps of otters, and yes, even towers of giraffes. It describes what the groups are generally made up of and what their social tendencies are. Wright explains whether an animal is sociable, who they are led by, and what they are selective about. The illustrations are beautiful. Wright does an amazing job with the watercolors and inks, that is then collaged with fabric and feathers. The simplistic and colorful illustrations can captivate any reader.

Children's Picture Book

Carla Castro, Library Science Student, Kutztown University

HOW DO DINOSAURS STAY SAFE?

Yolen, Jane. Illus. Mark Teague. *How Do Dinosaurs Stay Safe?* New York: Blue Sky Press, 2015. 978-0-439-24104-5. \$16.99. Pre K-1.

In the latest *Dinosaur* book by Yolen and Teague, safety is discussed in a question and answer format. The book begins with questions of what children should not do and then the book continues with answers to the correct way to stay safe. In the beginning the illustrations show dinosaurs not staying safe by jumping on the bed and running down the stairs. Some of examples of how the dinosaurs stay safe are wearing a helmet, how to cross the street with an adult, dialing 9-1-1, and listening to their human parents. The book shows both good and bad behavior and allows parents and teachers to discuss safety with children. Each humorous illustration of a dinosaur is labeled with the dinosaur's name. The funny illustrations and rhyming words make this another great read-a-loud in the series. This title is yet again another great addition to the *Dinosaur* series by Yolen and Teague and should be added to school and public library collections.

Picture Book

Sarah Meitzler, Circulation Manager, Lower Macungie Library

YOU NEST HERE WITH ME

Yolen, Jane and Heidi E. Y. Stemple. Illus. Melissa Sweet. *You Nest Here With Me*. Honesdale: Boyds Mills Press, an imprint of Highlights, 2015. 978-1-59078-923-0. \$16.95. Pre-K through Early Elementary.

As a mother helps her little girl snuggle into bed, she tells a story of how various types of birds nest with their offspring all over the world. From sea to sand, on stone or poles: nestlings stay safe and warm with parents in their home. As the reader turns the page experiencing all of the different ways birds nest, the overall theme is repeated: children stay safe in their “nest” until they’re grown. The illustrations beautifully depict many varieties of birds and the environments they live in. This is a feel-good story which will inspire bedtime hugs. This book would make a wonderful addition to any public or school library collection.

Picture Book Kim Cowell, Graduate Assistant, Kutztown University

KEY DISCOVERIES IN ENGINEERING AND DESIGN

Zuchora-Walske, Christine. *Key Discoveries in Engineering and Design*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 2015. 978-14677-5788-1. \$30.65. Grades 5-8.

A part of the series, *Science Discovery Timelines*, this title explores the fascinating history of engineering and design from ancient times to the present. For example, the chapter on printing begins the story with man recording events in carvings, progressing to paper, the printing press, to the current digital formats and 3-D printing. Photos of artifacts and historic examples make real connections for the reader. The visually attractive format complements the text. The book is divided into 4 short chapters, each beginning with a timeline of events for that topic. Topics include the architecture of the arch, printing, steam, and counting to computers. Each topic tells the story of the invention in chronological style with interesting facts interspersed with its significance to culture and society. Although a high interest title, it is limited in scope. There is a glossary and an index to assist readers with vocabulary and locating topics if using for research. Because of the price of this short treatment of engineering (48p.) it is recommended as an addition to those collections that can afford it.

Nonfiction Nancy Latanision, Department of Library Science & Instructional Technology

10 TRUE TALES: SURVIVING SHARKS

Zullo, Allan. *10 True Tales: Surviving Sharks*. New York: Scholastic, 2014. 978-0-5458-1838-4. \$5.99. 4-7

In multiple short story formats, this book provides ten true tales about young people who survived terrifying encounters with dangerous animals. The great escapes tales include a bite from a shark, being stalked by a cougar, a charging bull, and the tight coils of a python. Boys are the obvious target of this book, but girls who enjoy thrills and adventures will also like it. If you know a young fan of the *I Survived* series, suggest this book for them.

Short Stories Andrea Haas, Librarian, Sinking Spring Library

Thank You Everyone for participating in the
Fall Book Review!

We look forward to seeing you in the fall!



**The Department of Library Science
and Instructional Technology
Kutztown University**

Instructions For Submitting Book Reviews

After you have read the books you have selected, please follow the instructions provided for writing and submitting your book reviews. Please include ALL information and do not skip any criteria. If a review is incomplete, it will not be used.

1. Plagiarized book reviews will not be accepted.
2. Submit reviews in Microsoft Word format (.docx or .doc). If a program other than MS Word is used to write the reviews, please save the files as “rtf” or “rich text format” files. All reviews should be in the same document- You should be sending one attachment with all of your reviews in it. Reviews should be emailed to **libsci@kutztown.edu**. If you have ANY questions about how to write, format, or submit your reviews please email the graduate assistant at libsci@kutztown.edu and ask.
3. The following are examples of genre/format: Adventure, Animal Story, Autobiography, Biography, Board Book, Chapter Book, Coming of Age, Drama, Fairy Tale, Fantasy, Fiction, Folktale/Legend, Graphic Novel, Historical Fiction, Horror, Humor, Mystery, Mythology, Nonfiction, Picture Book, Poetry, Realism, Romance, Science Fiction, Short Stories, Sports. These are examples; you are not limited to them.
4. Once the reviews are finished, send them **all** in an email, as a **single** attachment, to libsci@kutztown.edu with your last name and Book Review in the subject line. **Please save a copy of your reviews until they have been published.**
5. Below is an example of a proper citation and review and it’s components:

Author Last Name, First Name. Illus. Illustrator First and Last Name. Title. City of Publisher: Publisher, Copyright Year. ISBN. \$Price of Book. Grade Level.

Single space your review! If the illustrator is not named, or if the author is also the illustrator, your citation does not need the illustrator information. Your review should give a brief summary of the book. **Do not use the words “I” or “we” or “you”.** A good review should be between 150-300 words. The last sentence or two should tell what you thought about the book (without saying “I liked this book...”). You can also include how the book could be used in a library or classroom.

Genre/Format
School

Name, Position,

Example:

Wiesner, David. Tuesday. New York: Clarion Books, 1991. 0-395-8708-28. \$14.13. PreK – 1.

Wiesner’s *Tuesday*, a Caldecott Medal winner, is a nearly wordless picture book that depicts the strange events of a Tuesday evening through stunning watercolor pictures. Beginning around 8:00 Tuesday evening, the first page shows a three panel picture of a quiet pond where a turtle sits on a log. What seems quiet and serene drastically changes with the flip of a page when frogs rise from the pond on floating lily pads, above the now frightened turtle. The frogs take flight to a nearby neighborhood where they chase birds and scare dogs, confuse a man eating his late-night snack and watch some television in an old woman’s home. As morning approaches the frogs fly back to the pond, abandon their magical lily pads and leap back into the pond. The reader is left to wonder what might happen next Tuesday evening, when pigs fly. Wiesner’s stunning watercolor pictures are rich in color and elaborately detailed. Young children with growing imaginations will love this book, as they can create the story to go along with the pictures. This is a great text to engage children who cannot yet read, or are just learning to read, as a way to support emerging literacy skills. *Tuesday* is a must have for every children’s book collection.

Picture Book; Fantasy

Kim Cowell, Graduate Student, Kutztown University

The Department of Library Science and Instructional Technology sends your book reviews on to the Children's Literature Comprehensive Database (CLCD). This database is a national collection of professional book reviews. To ensure your review is included in this database we are asking that each review be written completely and professionally. When writing your review make sure it is a review you would find helpful if you wanted information about the book. Any reviews that do not meet these criteria will not be included in the database. Below you will find some general guidelines that will tell you what the CLCD is looking for in a review.

General Guidelines (from the Children's Literature Comprehensive Database)

Every review should have three essential components: a strong opening that invites further reading; a summary of content or plot; and an evaluation that assesses how well an author presents the material, creates believable characters, and serves the target audience. The evaluation is by far the most useful portion for collection developers. Presenting this information in one short paragraph enables the reader to understand both content summary and the evaluation.

- a. **Stay within the limit of 150-300 words.** Anything less than 150 words is merely an annotation.
- b. Use present tense, active voice when writing a review, unless when writing about events in history for nonfiction reviews. Avoid the use of "you" whenever possible, instead **use third-person point of view.**
- c. Reviews should follow a logical progression of thought.
- d. When citing an author, use only the last name. The full name appears in the header containing bibliographic information. It is also unnecessary to repeat the title within the review, a practice that also wastes word count.
- e. Include the names and roles of the main characters and be sure to identify their general or specific ages (i.e. eleven-year-old, middle schoolers).
- f. Try to limit pulling quotes from the book. Doing so often wastes words and is an example of "telling" and not "showing."
- g. Avoid repetition of word and thought. Rereading your review and editing can help solve this problem.
- h. When using the word "this," make sure that there is a noun attached to it to avoid confusion, lack of clarity. "This is an example of bad writing." "This review exemplifies good writing."
- i. Provide comparisons or alternatives where appropriate, especially when a book is not recommended. Book A does not fulfill its purpose effectively. Recommend Book B or C instead.
- j. Always proofread your work and edit. Then read it again. And again.

As always, thank you for your hard work to make the Book Review a success.