



Notes on the Notables 2000
Compiled by Linda Jewett, Coordinator of Library Services
Sacramento City Unified School District
Reading Support Center
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This bibliography is a compilation of the preschool through young adult books that have been selected as the best books published in 2000 from several sources. The Children's Notable Books, 2000 (ALA) were selected by the Notable Children's Books Committee for the Association for Library Services to Children, a division of the American Library Association. In addition, the Best books of 2000 from the School Library Journal's Best Books, and the Best Books for Young Adults, 2000 (ALA) are included. The books are listed in alphabetical order by title. Books Too Good To Miss were selected by Linda Jewett, Coordinator, Library Services, Sacramento City Unified School District are also on this list.

123 POP! Rachel Isadora. Illus. by the author. Viking. \$16.00. The numbers from 1 to 20 to 100 to 500 to 1000 to 1,000,000 are presented in a vibrant pop art style. Count on this book to be popular with the younger set!

24 HOURS. Margaret Mahy. Simon & Schuster/Margaret K. McElderry. \$17.00. During his first 24-hours after graduating from prep school, 17-year-old Ellis unexpectedly becomes part of an inner-city world far different from his comfortable life. **YOUNG ADULT.**

4 FANTASTIC NOVELS. Daniel Pinkwater, foreword by Scott Simon. Aladdin. Paperback. \$10.00. Four previously published novels by Daniel Pinkwater are combined in this paperback volume. Includes *Borgel*, *Yobgorgle: Mystery Monster of Lake Ontario*, *The Worms of Kukumlima*, and *The Snarkout Boys and the Baconburg Horror*. Pinkwater's fantasies are filled with the kind of humor that appeals to both intermediate and adult readers.

A IS FOR SALAD. Mike Lester. Putnam & Grosset. \$10.00. This is an alphabet book with a different twist! Each letter of the alphabet is presented in an unusual way, such as: “F is for soup” showing a frog eating a bowl of soup and “L is for hair dryer” showing a lion using a hair dryer.

A IS FOR THE AMERICAS. Cynthia Chin-Lee and Terri de la Pena. Illus. by Enrique O. Sanchez. Orchard. \$17.00. From Canada to South America, and through the letters of the alphabet, the reader is introduced to the history, geography, and culture of the Americas. Acrylic and gouache paintings add softness and depth to this non-fiction book.

AN ALGONQUIAN YEAR. Michael McCurdy. Illus. by the author. Houghton Mifflin. \$15.00. The reader follows the Algonquian year as it was before white settlers arrived. Each month is named for a moon, and the activities accomplished in that month are described. Scratchboard illustrations emphasize the stark reality of the passing year.

ANCIENT MEDICINE: FROM SORCERY TO SURGERY

homemaking skills, dreams of someday inheriting her father's bookstore. When her father remarries a young woman and has another child, Meg finds adjustment to the new situation difficult. A realistic look, through historical fiction, at the social significance of women in the 17th century. California author.

Opal's voice throughout the story is authentic to the story and the setting, and this is a wonderful read-aloud about friendship and love. Not to be missed!

BEDHEAD. Margie Palatini. Illus. by Jack E. Davis. Simon & Schuster. \$16.00. Oliver is having a very bad hair day and even his family can't control the situation. Finally, he sets off to school with a favorite hat, only to discover it is picture day at school! A fun read-aloud. **Open Court: Appearances.**

BEET FIELDS: MEMORIES OF A SIXTEENTH SUMMER. Gary Paulsen. Delacorte. \$16.00. Based on the author's life, this story tells of his experiences as a migrant laborer and carnival worker after he ran away from home at age sixteen. **YOUNG ADULT.**

BIG CHEESE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE: THE TRUE TALE OF A TREMENDOUS CHEDDAR. Candace Fleming. Illus by S.D. Schindler. DK Ink. \$17.00. In 1801, in Cheshire, Massachusetts, Elder John Leland heard that the President was serving Norton cheese. He promptly organized his fellow townspeople to make a big Cheshire cheese for President Jefferson and transport it to the White House. The story is based on an actual event, and there's even a statue of the cheese and Elder John Leland in the village. Read the story aloud and serve some cheese! **Open Court: Our Country, E Pluribus Unum.**

BIG JABE. Jerdine Nolen. Illus. by Kadir Nelson. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard. \$16.00. Momma Mary tells the story of a little boy found in a basket in the river who grows up to do wondrous things for the slaves on the Plenty Plantation. **Open Court: Storytelling.**

BLANCA'S FEATHER. Antonio Hernandez Madrigal. Illus. by Gerardo Suzan. Rising Moon. \$16.00. On the eve of the yearly blessing of the animals, a girl searches for her pet hen. The illustrations seem to celebrate the beauty of rural Mexico.

BLIZZARD! Jim Murphy. Illus. with archival photos and prints. Scholastic Press. \$19.00. In 1888 a massive blizzard hit the Northeast. This book is a collection of personal and newspaper accounts of storm's impact on New York City. Includes Notes on Sources and Related Reading Material. Index.

BONAPARTE. Marsha Wilson Chall. Illus by Wendy Anderson Halperin. DK Ink. \$17.00. When Jean Claude is sent off to La School d'Excellence he desperately misses his dog, Bonaparte. Bonaparte also misses Jean Claude and devises various ways to sneak into the school, all without success - until one

event brings boy and dog together and changes the boarding school forever.

a concert pianist. A fantasy chapter book to read aloud! **Open Court: Music and Musicians.**

CAVE. Diane Siebert. Illus. by Wayne McLoughlin. HarperCollins. \$17.00. Poetic text and stunning illustrations bring the life and the mystery of a limestone cave to the reader. **Open Court: Ecology.**

by a full-page painting portraying the images the words evoke. Includes: About Clouds and Types of Clouds.

COLOR ME A RHYME: NATURE POEMS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. Jane Yolen. Photographs by Jason Stemple. Boyds Mills/Wordsong. \$16.00. Each poem in this book evokes a color in nature. The pages are alive with photographs and each has a quotation about the featured color. Yolen suggests that the photographs be used as a springboard for children's poetry writing.

COLOR OF MY WORDS. Lynn Joseph. HarperCollins/Joanna Cotler. \$15.00. Twelve-year-old Ana Rosa, who lives in a small village in the Dominican Republic, is determined to be a writer. She lives in a country where words are feared and it is because of the courage of her beloved older brother that she learns the importance of both writing and freedom. **Open Court: Taking a Stand.**

COLORS OF US. Karen Katz. Illus. by the author. Holt. \$16.00. Lena and her mother observe how variations in skin color match the colors of food and things found in nature.

COUNTRY MOUSE COTTAGE: HOW WE LIVED ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO. Nigel Brooks and Abigail Horner. Walker. \$16.00. A charming look at British country life 100 years ago, as told by Edward Country Mouse. **SEE ALSO: TOWN HOUSE MOUSE: HOW WE LIVED ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.** Nigel Brooks and Abigail Horner. Illus by Nigel Brooks and Abigail Horner. Walker. \$16.00. This companion volume tells about British town life 100 years ago, as told by Augustus Town Mouse. **Open Court: Homes.**

CRICKWING. Janell Cannon. Harcourt. \$16.00. The creator of Stellanina and Verdi brings us Crickwing, the cockroach! Crickwing is an artist but after being bullied by larger predators, he decides to bully the leafcutters. But when the army ants invade the leafcutter colony, it is Crickwing who comes to the leafcutters' rescue. Includes Cockroach Notes and Ant Notes. **Open Court: Appearances.**

DAILY LIFE IN A PLAINS INDIAN VILLAGE, 1868. Michael Bad Hand Terry. Illus. with photos. Clarion/Houghton Mifflin. \$20.00. Through photos and artifacts, the author creates a facsimile of a Plains Indian village of 1868. Real Bird and his family are part of the Northern Cheyenne tribe of the Plains Indians and the reader sees the customs of the Cheyenne through the pages of this oversized volume. **Open Court: The American West.**

DANCE, SING, REMEMBER: A CELEBRATION OF JEWISH HOLIDAYS. Leslie Kimmelman. Illus by Ora Eitan. HarperCollins. \$19.00. This book

contains explanations and descriptions of eleven Jewish holidays. Includes stories, games, recipes and crafts to make.

THE DAY THE RABBI DISAPPEARED: JEWISH HOLIDAY TALES OF MAGIC.

Retold by Howard Schwartz. Illus. by Monique Passicot. Viking. \$16.00. Included in this book are retellings of twelve traditional tales from Jewish folklore featuring elements of magic and relating to various Jewish holidays. Includes information about each holiday, Glossary, Sources. California illustrator.

DESERT SONG

follow “The Doll Code of Honor.” A fantasy read aloud or read alone that will appeal to many intermediate readers.

DOVEY COE. Frances O’Roark Dowell. Simon & Schuster/Atheneum. \$16.00. When accused of murder in her North Carolina mountain town in 1928, Dovey Coe, a strong-willed 12-year-old girl, comes to a new understanding of others and herself. The voice of Dovey is authentic and readers from grade 4+ will remember Dovey Coe long after the book is finished.

DREAM FREEDOM. Sonia Levitin. Harcourt. \$17.00. Based on a true story and real-life events, this novel tells how a group of American students learn about slavery in present-day Sudan and raise money to help buy the freedom of some of the slaves. Alternate chapters tell the stories of the slaves. California author. YOUNG ADULT.

DREAMLAND. Sarah Dessen. Viking. \$16.00. After her older sister runs away, 16-year-old Caitlin decides that she needs to make a major change in her own life and begins an abusive relationship with a boy.

mother, Anne Boleyn. The diary format for historical fiction will bring the 16th century right to the lap of the intermediate and young adult reader.

ERETH'S BIRTHDAY. Avi. Illus. by Brian Floca. HarperCollins. \$15.00. In this fourth novel in the *Tales From Dimwood Forest* series, it is grumpy old Ereth Porcupine's birthday and while he expects surprises he is not prepared to become the guardian of three fox kits, and have to hide from humans setting porcupine traps. A fun read-aloud for intermediate grades.

ESPERANZA RISING. Pam Munoz Ryan. Scholastic. \$16.00. Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave a privileged life style on a Mexican rancho after Esperanza's father is killed. It is the eve of the Great Depression when they migrate to California to work in the labor camps. While the conditions are harsher than anything they have ever known, Esperanza is determined to see that her family survive despite the odds. California author. California setting. **Open Court: Perseverance.**

EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT PIRATES: A COLLECTION OF MADE-UP FACTS, EDUCATED GUESSES, AND SILLY PICTURES ABOUT BAD GUYS OF THE HIGH SEAS. Tom Lichtenheld. Illus by the author. Simon & Schuster. \$16.00. A "tongue-in-cheek" presentation of a pirate "encyclopedia." The pages are filled with silly facts, a mixture of yesteryear and today's technology, clever illustrations and trivia galore. Older students will have fun pulling truth from fiction - or maybe embellishing the facts even more! Not re-0ot re-0oendetermedion arch! SILLY PICTUR

THE GIFT OF THE CROCODILE: A CINDERELLA STORY. Judy Sierra. Illus. by Reynold Ruffins. Simon & Schuster. \$17.00. In this Indonesian version of the Cinderella story, the setting is the Spice Islands. Damura escapes her cruel stepmother and stepsister and, with the help of Grandmother Crocodile, marries a handsome prince. California author. **Open Court: Storytelling.**

GIRL WHO SPUN GOLD

GRANDFATHERS: REMINISCENCES, POEMS, RECIPES, AND PHOTOS OF THE KEEPERS OF OUR TRADITIONS. Edited by Nikki Giovanni. Illus. with photos and drawings. Henry Holt. \$19.00. A collection of tributes to nearly 50 different grandfathers by their adult grandchildren. **Open Court: Family Traditions.**

THE GRAVE. James Heneghan. Farrar/Frances Foster. \$17.00. Thirteen-year-old Tom, has spent his entire life shuffled between foster homes in Liverpool. A mass grave is uncovered during construction on his school grounds. He finds himself drawn to the site, falls into the huge open grave and is transported to Ireland in 1847, where he finds himself in the midst of the deadly potato famine.

GROWING FROGS. Vivian French. Illus. by Alison Bartlett. Candlewick. \$16.00. A little girl's mother helps her gather frog spawn from a pond and nurture the spawn from tadpole to frog and then return the frogs to the neighborhood pond. Bright, sunny illustrations help to explain the growth cycle. Includes index and is a wonderful book for a primary grade research project, as well as a good example of primary research. **Open Court: Animals.**

GROWING SEASONS. Elsie Lee Splear. Illus by Ken Stark. G.P. Putnam's Sons. \$16.00. A tribute and celebration of the family farm that is disappearing at a rapid rate. The author, born in the early part of the 20th century, recalls things and events such as threshing day on the farm, Christmas traditions, the cellar during a summer storm. **Open Court: Country Life.**

HANNAH'S COLLECTIONS. Marthe Jocelyn. Dutton. \$14.00. Hannah has many, many collections and when it is sharing time at school she has great difficulty trying to decide what to share. The illustrations are collages of collections and fun for children to pick out objects from the pictures. **Open Court: School.**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, LULU! Caroline Uff. Illus. by the author. Walker. \$15.00. The third in a series of pre-school picture books. Lulu celebrates her birthday from breakfast time to party time. Others in the series: *Hello, Lulu* and *Lulu's Busy Day*.

HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE. J.K. Rowling. Illus. by Mary Grandpre. Arthur A. Levine/ Scholastic. \$26.00. Harry is now a 14-year-old wizard starting his fourth year at Hogwar

destination - but one is richer for the experience. Includes biographical information about Henry Thoreau.

HERE COMES PONTUS! Ann-Sofie Jeppson. Illus. by Catarina Kruusval. Translated from the Swedish by Frances Corry. R&S Books, distributed by Farrar Straus Giroux. \$14.00. Told from the horse's point of view, the story of a horse's first month at a new home with a new family. A wealth of information is given about feed, riding, and care. Includes index.

HERE WE ALL ARE. Tomie dePaola. Illus. by the author. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$14.00. In this sequel to *26 Fairmont Avenue*, children's author and illustrator Tomie dePaola continues to describe his experiences at home and in school when he was a boy.

HOPE WAS HERE. Joan Bauer. Putnam's Sons. \$17.00. When 16-year-old Hope and the aunt who raised her move from Brooklyn to Mulhoney, Wisconsin, to work as waitress and cook in a diner, they become involved with the diner owner's political campaign to oust the town's corrupt mayor. **YOUNG ADULT.**

THE HOUSE OF WISDOM. Florence Parry Heide and Judtih Heide Gilliland. Illus. by Mary Grandpre. DK Ink. \$17.00. Ishaq, a young boy living in ancient Baghdad, becomes a scholar and traveler in search of books and manuscripts for Baghdad's library, known as the House of Wisdom. The message here is that knowledge preserved is an important value. **Open Court: Learning.**

HOW DO DINOSAURS SAY GOOD NIGHT? Jane Yolen. Illus. by Mark Teague. Blue Sky/Scholastic. \$16.00. Rhyming text compares the different reactions a dinosaur has when Papa and Mama turn off the light and say good night. Oversized pictures will delight young readers who have an affinity to dinosaurs. **Open Court: Fossils.**

THE HUNTER: A CHINESE FOLKTALE. Mary Casanova. Illus. by Ed Young. Atheneum. \$17.00. In a Chinese village, a drought scorches the countryside and the people are beginning to starve. Hai Li Bu, a hunter, saves a small snake from a crane, and in return the snake brings him to the bottom of the sea, where the snake's father, the Dragon King of the Sea, lives. The Dragon King offers rubies and emeralds as a reward, but Hai Li Bu wants only to understand the language of animals so that he can be a better hunter and feed his village. **Open Court: Storytelling.**

HURRY FREEDOM: AFRICAN AMERICANS IN GOLD RUSH CALIFORNIA. Jerry Stanley. Archival photos and prints. Crown. \$19.00. This book has been nominated for the National Book Award, and while it recounts the activities of African Americans during the gold rush, the focus is on the life and work of Mifflin Gibbs who came to San Francisco in 1850 and was dedicated to the civil rights of African Americans in California. California author. Excellent resource for

California history curriculum. Includes Bibliographic Note and Index. **Open Court: Taking a Stand.**

IF WISHES WERE HORSES. Natalie Kinsey-Warner. Dutton. \$16.00. It is the Great Depression in rural Vermont and 12-year-old Lily resents her sister, Emily, wants her own horse, and hopes that a visiting great aunt will take her side in the matters of life that seem so unfair. But when sister Emily comes down with polio and the family needs electricity to hook up an iron lung, Lily makes a sacrifice of love that leads her to understand how dreams can change. A poignant story with a gritty, honest protagonist.

he has an opportunity to learn more about his father, himself and what is important in life. **Open Court: Family Heritage.**

JAZZ FLY. Matthew Gollub. Illus by Karen Hanke. Tortuga Press. \$18.00. Seeking directions to town, a tuxedo-clad fly picks up the rhythm of the answers he gets from a frog (RRRibit), a hog (OINK), a donkey (Hee Haw) and a dog (Rruff) and puts them together to add to his jazz band's music. A music CD, starring the Jazz Fly, Willie the Worm, Nancy the Gnat, and Sammy the Centipede accompanies the text. California author. **Open Court: Music and Musicians.**

JESSIE DE LA CRUZ: A PROFILE OF A UNITED FARM WORKER. Gary Soto. Illustrated with photos. Persea Books. \$18.00. This is the biography of a woman who was a migrant worker in the fields of California during the 1960s and worked with Cesar Chavez for the civil rights of all migrant workers. Includes Bibliography and Index. California author. California setting. **Open Court: Taking a Stand.**

JOE AND THE SKYSCRAPER: THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING IN NEW YORK CITY. Dietrich Neumann. Prestel. \$15.00. Joe Carbonelli is a 16-year-old waterboy during the construction of the Empire State Building and tells the story of the project as he experienced it. Joe's story explains how the world's tallest skyscraper was built in only 18 months, a tower 1,250 feet high with 102 floors. The text is enhanced with many archival photos. **Open Court: Technology.**

JOEY PIGZA LOSES CONTROL. Jack Gantos. Farrar. \$16.00. In this sequel to *Joey Pigza Swallows the Key*, Joey goes to spend the summer with the hard-drinking father he has never known and tries to help the baseball team he coaches win the championship.

JOHN RILEY'S DAUGHTER. Kezi Matthews. Front Street/Cricket Books. \$16.00. This novel takes place over three days during the summer of 1973. Thirteen-year-old Memphis Riley lives with her grandmother and mentally handicapped cousin, Clover, after her mother dies and her father abandons her. She is not a welcomed addition and after Clover disappears, Memphis comes to realize that family is not necessarily about being related by blood.

KATE AND THE BEANSTALK. Mary Pope Osborne. Illus by Giselle Potter. Simon & Schuster/Atheneum \$16.00. In this version of *Jack and the Beanstalk*, a girl, Kate, climbs to the top of a giant beanstalk, where she uses her quick wits to outsmart a giant and to right an evil wrong. **Open Court: Folk Tales.**

THE KIDS CAN PRESS JUMBO BOOK OF GARDENING. Karyn Morris. Illus. by Jane Kurisu. Kids Can Press. Paperback. \$15.00. Dedicated by the author to

“Miss Rumphius,” this book includes *How Gardens Grow, Fruit and Vegetable Gardens, Flower Gardens, Gardening With Native Plants, Wildlife Gardens, School and Community Gardens, Plant Lists and Index*. **Open Court: City Wildlife. Open Court: Ecology.**

KIT’S WILDERNESS. David Almond. Delacorte. \$16.00. Thirteen-year-old Kit goes to live with his grandfather in the decaying coal mining town of Stoneygate, England, and finds both the old man and the town haunted by ghosts of the past.

LENA. Jacqueline Woodson. Delacorte. \$16.00. Thirteen-year-old Lena and her younger sister, Dion, mourn the death of their mother as they hitchhike from Ohio to Kentucky to escape from their abusive father.

pre-school and kindergarten children will enjoy helping to tell the story by making the appropriate sounds of the animals.

LIVES OF EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN: RULERS, REBELS (AND WHAT NEIGHBORS THOUGHT). Kathleen Krull. Illus. by Kathryn Hewitt. Harcourt. \$20.00. Beginning with Cleopatra, this book presents brief biographies of twenty women leaders who made a difference to the world. Each biography is introduced with a full-page caricature of the subject. Includes bibliography. One of a series.

LIZZY AND SKUNK. Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick. Illus. by the author. DK Ink. \$15.00. Lizzy is a very shy child and her best friend is her hand puppet, Skunk. When skunk is in danger, Lizzy finds the courage to save him.

LULU'S BUSY DAY. Caroline Uff. Illus. by the author. Walker. \$15.00. A charming book for the pre-school audience. Lulu enjoys many activities during the day, including drawing a picture, visiting the park, and reading a bedtime story.

MADLENKA. Peter Sis. Illus. by the author. Farrar Straus Giroux. \$17.00. Madlenka has always lived on the same block in New York City. It is a microcosm of the many cultures throughout the world. As Madlenka sets off to tell the neighborhood that her tooth has a wiggle in it, the reader experiences Madlenka's neighborhood and Madlenka feels as if she has been around the world. **Open Court: Captain Bill Pinkney's Journey.**

THE MAGIC FISH-BONE. Charles Dickens. Pictures by Robert Florczyk. Harcourt. \$17.00. A lavish new version of an English classic. Princess Alicia is given a magic fishbone by the Fairy Grandmarina who tells Alicia that the fishbone will grant her whatever she wishes, provided she wishes at the right time. But, when is the right time? The illustrations are lush in color and detail and simply splendid.

MAMMALABILIA. Douglas Florian. Illus. by the author. Harcourt. \$16.00. A collection of humorous poems about 21 mammals such as the tiger, gorilla, coyote and rhebok. **Open Court: Animals.**

MANY STONES. Carolyn Coman. Front Street. \$16.00. After her sister Laura is murdered in South Africa, Berry and her estranged father travel to Capetown to participate in the dedication of a memorial in her name. The trip takes them beyond their personal grief as they relive Laura's path in a country searching for reconciliation. **YOUNG ADULT.**

MATILDA BONE. Karen Cushman. Clarion. \$15.00. When Matilda is apprenticed to a medieval bonesetter, she finds it difficult to adjust to the coarser ways of the common folk. The book contains much lore about the practice of medicine during the medieval age. California author. **Open Court: Medicine.**

THE MATS. Francisco Arcellana. Illus. by Hermes Alegre. Kane/Miller. \$14.00. In this charming book set in the Philippines, a traveling father returns home with a special gift for each member of his large family.

MAX. Bob Graham. Illus. by the author. Candlewick. \$16.00. Max, the young son of superheroes, is a late bloomer when it comes to flying, until he is inspired by the plight of a falling baby bird. Like the superhero family, this bright book is supersized! A fun read aloud! **Open Court: Kindness.**

MEI-MEI LOVES THE MORNING. Margaret Holloway Tsubakiyama. Illus. by Cornelius Van Wright and Ying Hwa Hu. Albert Whitman. \$16.00. This richly illustrated picture book conveys how Mei-Mei and her grandfather spend their mornings in modern urban China.

MEMORIES OF SUMMER. Ruth White. Farrar. \$16.00. In 1955, 13-year-old Lyric finds her whole life changing when she moves to Michigan from rural Virginia with her father and older sister, Summer. Lyric adapts to the new environment but Summer begins descending into mental illness. How Lyric and her father try to hold on to Summer and then help her by letting go is a poignant story.

MESSENGER, MESSENGER. Robert Burleigh. Illus. by Barry Root. Atheneum. \$16.00. Calvin Curbhopper, a bicycle messenger in a large city, akes his way through the city in all kinds of conditions to make sure that his messages get delivered on time. A picture book look at an usual business that thrives in cities. **Open Court: Business.**

MICHELANGELO. Diane Stanley. Illus. by the author. HarperCollins. \$16.00. Presented in picture book format, this is the biography of the Renaissance sculptor, painter, architect, and poet, well known for his work on the Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Cathedral in Rome. **Open Court: Perseverance. Open Court: Fine Arts units.**

MIDNIGHT MATH: TWELVE TERRIFIC MATH GAMES. Peter Ledwon. Illus. by Marilyn Mets. Holiday House. \$16.00. In this vividly illustrated book animal characters help readers play twelve different math games. Includes *Did You Know* answer page.

contacted Mr. Butcher. This story, first published in 1977, is a result of that contact and is a lesson to be learned about innocence and greed. **Open Court: Ancient Civilizations.**

MIRACLE'S BOYS. Jacqueline Woodson. G.P. Putnam's Sons. \$16.00. Twelve-year-old Lafayette's close relationship with his older brother Charlie changes after Charlie is released from a detention home and blames Lafayette for the death of their mother. **YOUNG ADULT.**

MISSING MITTEN MYSTERY. Steven Kellogg. Illus. by the author. Dial. \$16.00. A "re-imagined" edition of Kellogg's classic *The Mystery of the Missing Red Mitten*, this is bound to be a favorite once again. Annie loses her fifth mitten of the winter and she searches the entire neighborhood before finding it (with a little help from the rain).

MONK CAMPS OUT. Emily Arnold McCully. Illus. by the author. Scholastic. \$16.00. Monk goes on his first camp-out in the backyard. It's hard to say who is most fearful of the adventure: Monk, Mom or Dad Mouse? **Open Court: Being Afraid.**

MORT THE SPORT. Robert Kraus. Illus. by John Himmelman. Orchard. \$16.00. Mort is good at all sports which make his parents very proud. But, to please his mother, Mort takes violin lessons. Then the confusion begins when Mort uses the violin for a bat and tries to make music with the bat! Finally, it is just too much and Mort comes to a huge decision on his own. **Open Court: Games.**

MR. BEAR'S VACATION. Debi Gliori. Illus. by the author. Orchard/Grolier. \$16.00. When the Bear family's relaxing camping trip turns into a scary nightmare, they decide they need a vacation from their vacation! **Open Court: Being Afraid.**

MY AMERICA: A POETRY ATLAS OF THE UNITED STATES. Selected by Lee Bennett Hopkins. Illus. by Stephen Alcorn. Simon & Schuster. \$20.00. A collection of poems evocative of seven geographical regions of the United States: the Northeast, Southeast, Great Lakes, Plains, Mountain, Southwest, and Pacific Coast states. The illustrator worked directly on the paper without making sketches first. Said the artist, "This enabled me to surrender to the magic of each poem." A fine addition to the elementary library collection! **Open Court: E Pluribus Unum.**

MY DOG TOBY. Andrea Zimmerman and David Clemesha. Illus. by True Kelley. Silver Whistle/Harcourt. \$15.00. Toby is a wonderful dog in every way...except he doesn't know how to do any tricks. Patience and perseverance

win when Toby learns to SIT on command. California authors. **Open Court: Animals.**

MY SEASON WITH PENGUINS: AN ANTARCTIC JOURNAL. Sophie Webb. Illus. by the author. Houghton Mifflin. \$15.00. The author spent two months in the Antarctic studying the Adelie penguin. This book is the result of her research and is presented in journal format illustrated with numerous water color paintings. Glossary. California author and illustrator. **Open Court: Ecology.**

NIGHT FLYING. Rita Murphy. Delacorte. \$15.00. It is an old family tradition in Georgia's family - when a girl reaches her 16th birthday she can fly after dark. As Georgia's birthday approaches she knows her passion is flying but wonders if the trade-off of following a predetermined life course and family rules is worth the freedom of flight. Winner of the 17th Annual Delacorte Press Prize for a First Young Adult Novel. **YOUNG ADULT.**

NIGHT WORKER. Kate Banks. Illus. by Georg Hallensleben. Frances Foster/Farrar Straus Giroux. \$16.00. Alex wants to be a "night worker" like his father
wgke his father

ORWELL'S LUCK. Richard Jennings. Houghton/Walter Lorraine. \$15.00. A 12-year-old girl rescues a wild rabbit, names him Orwell, and the mysterious happenings begin. It seems that Orwell is a horoscope writer, a source of good luck, and the catalyst for learning to see things in more than one way. Kindness and friendship are the themes in this charming fantasy chapter book.

OZ: THE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION. Edited by Peter Glassman. Illustrated by various artists. HarperCollins. \$25.00. Thirty noted children's authors and illustrators pay tribute to *The Wizard of Oz* on the 100th anniversary of its initial publication. Includes: About the Authors and Illustrators.

PARABLES: STORIES JESUS TOLD. Mary Hoffman. Illus. by Jackie Morris. Penguin Putnam/Phyllis Fogelman. \$17.00. The author recounts eight of Jesus' lessons. Each is boldly illustrated in watercolors and interpreted by the author. Includes an index to finding the parables in the Bible.

PEDDLER'S GIFT. Maxine Rose Schur. Illus. by Kimberly Bulcken Root. Dial/Penguin Putnam. \$16.00. A young boy at the end of the 19th century in Russia learns that appearances are sometimes deceiving after stealing a dreidel from a traveling peddler. **Open Court: Appearances.**

PEG AND THE WHALE. Kenneth Oppel. Illus. by Terry Widener. Simon &

drop off the team, trust is lost and winning the championship may be out of reach. This novel is all about friendship, trust and ambition. **YOUNG ADULT.**

QUILTMAKER'S GIFT. Jeff Brumbeau. Illus. by Gail de Marcken. Pfeifer-Hamilton. \$18.00. A generous quiltmaker finally agrees to make a quilt for the greedy king, but only on the condition that he give away all his possessions before receiving the quilt. At first the king resists but soon learns that wealth is not held in material objects but in the happiness that giving brings. Beautifully illustrated with quilting details. **Open Court: Storytelling.**

RADIO RESCUE. Lynne Barasch. Illus. by the author. Farrar Straus Giroux. \$16.00. In the 1920s, after learning Morse code and setting up his own amateur radio station, a 12-year-old boy sends a message that leads to the rescue of a family stranded by a hurricane in Florida. Based on experiences of the author's father. **Open Court: Technology.**

THE RAFT. Jim LaMarche. Illus by the author. HarperCollins. \$16.00. A city boy spends the summer in the country with his grandmother and discovers the pleasures of rafting and sketching the wildlife. **Open Court: Country Wildlife.**
RAIN. Manya Stojic. Illus by the author. Crown. \$18.00. Dramatic changes occur when rain comes to the parched African savanna. This picture book with dramatic and color-filled illustrations depicts the reactions of the animals to the rain. **Open Court: Animals.**

RAINBOW WINGS. Joanne Ryder. Illus. by Victor Lee. HarperCollins. \$16.00. A winged cat takes the reader on a flight of fancy by letting a variety of birds, insects, and mammals describe flight as they experience it. Includes factual explanation of how each is able to fly. California author.

THE REMARKABLE FARKLE MCBRIDE. John Lithgow. Illus. by C.F. Payne. Simon & Schuster. \$16.00. Musical prodigy Farkle McBride tries a number of instruments before discovering that conducting the orchestra is what makes him happiest. A nice read aloud and introduction to the instruments of an orchestra. **Open Court: Music and Musicians.**

ROADRUNNER'S DANCE. Rudolfo Anaya. Pictures by David Diaz. Hyperion. \$16.00. Because Rattlesnake has taken over the road and will not let any of the people or animals in the village use it, Desert Woman enlists the aid of the other animals to create a strange new creature with the necessary tools to put Rattlesnake in his place. The illustrations, in colors and tones of the American Southwest, glow and evoke the fantasy of this creation story. **Open Court: Storytelling.**

ROBERTO: THE INSECT ARCHITECT

become a real sleuth when he attempts to solve a mystery while accompanying his somewhat distant grandfather on a photography gathering trip.

SHAKESPEARE'S SCRIBE. Gary Blackwood. Dutton. \$16.00. The setting is 1602 England. The bubonic plague is raging and the Globe Theatre has been shut down and the acting company sent out on a road trip across the country. Widge, a 15-year-old orphan-turned-actor, shares the adventures and excitement and along the way learns more about his parents. Sequel to *The Shakespeare Stealer*.

SILENT TO THE BONE. E.L. Konigsburg. Simon & Schuster/Atheneum. \$16.00. When he is accused of gravely injuring his baby half sister, 13-year-old Bramwell loses his ability to speak. Only his friend Conner is able to communicate with him as Conner searches to uncover the truth about what really happened. **YOUNG ADULT.**

SIR WALTER RALEGH AND THE QUEST FOR EL DORADO. Marc Aronson. Illus. with photos and prints. Clarion. \$20.00. This well-researched biography tells of one of the world's greatest explorers of the 16th and 17th centuries. He was a man of contradictions; for example, while he helped to massacre Catholics in Ireland, he supported religious tolerance. While he had many dark traits, there were strengths to be admired and this book tells of the total man. Note: Although the popular spelling of his name is *Raleigh*, it is a fact that he used *Ralegh* in his lifetime. Includes Endnotes and Bibliography, Timeline, Index.

SITTING BULL AND HIS WORLD. Albert Marrin. Illus. with archival photos and prints. Dutton. \$28.00. This book tells the story of Tatan'ka Iyota'ke, or Sitting Bull, who was the most revered leader of the Plains Indians and is best known for leading the Indians who defeated General Custer at the Battle of the Little Big Horn. However, this book is not only about Sitting Bull but also describes the differences between the white and Indian cultures during the 19th century and how treaties and promises were broken. Includes Notes, Some More Books to Read, Index.

SLEDS ON BOSTON COMMON: A STORY FROM THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. Louise Borden. Illus. by Robert Andrew Parker. Simon & Schuster/Margaret K. McElderry. \$17.00. Henry Price, a young lad living in Boston in 1774, complains to the royal governor, General Gage, that the British troops have taken over the sledding paths on Boston Common and asks that the children of Boston be allowed to have access to them. Gage, a father himself, orders his soldiers to vacate the sledding trails. **Open Court: Colonial Life.**

SNOW PUMPKIN. Carole Lexa Schaefer. Illus. By Pierre Morgan. Crown. \$15.00. When there is an early snow in October, children make a snow pumpkin man using a pumpkin from the garden for its head. After the snow melts, the pumpkin becomes a jack-o-lantern for Halloween.

SO YOU WANT TO BE PRESIDENT? Judith St. George. Illus. by David Small. Philomel/Penguin Putnam. \$18.00. Lavishly illustrated with caricatures of presidents from George Washington to Bill Clinton, this book talks about the physical and mental characteristics, the qualifications and the foibles of these American leaders. **Open Court: Our Country, E Pluribus Unum.**

SOME THINGS ARE SCARY. Florence Parry Heide. Illus. by Jules Feiffer. Candlewick. \$16.00. This author and illustrator have produced a delightful collaboration when listing things that make kids scared and bringing those thoughts to life with simple but expressive illustrations. **Open Court: Being Afraid.**

SOPHIE SKATES. Rachel Isadora. Illus. by the author. G.P. Putnam's Sons. \$16.00. The reader is introduced to ice skating through the storyline of a young girl who works hard to become a figure skater. It is through the watercolor illustrations and succinct text that we follow Sophie's day on the ice. **Open Court: Keep Trying.**

SPACE RACE. Sylvia Waugh. Delacorte. \$16.00. Patrick and his father are separated as they return to their space ship for their journey back to their home planet. Suspense fills this chapter book for grades 4+.

STAGECOACH: THE RIDE OF A CENTURY. A. Richard Mansir. Illus. by the author. Charlesbridge. \$16.00. This book traces the history of the stagecoach in America from the days of the Revolution to 1910. Timeline. Index.

STARGIRL. Jerry Spinelli. Knopf. \$16.00. This is a story about the perils and fleetingness of popularity, the courage of

stowaway Nicholas Young relates his adventures on board Captain Cook's ship *Endeavour* between 1768 and 1771. **Open Court: Journeys and Quests.**

STRONG TO THE HOOP. John Coy. Illus. by Leslie Jean-Bart. Lee & Low. \$17.00. Collages and a lively text illustrate how James, a 10-year-old inner-city boy, proves himself on the basketball court.

SUMMERTIME: FROM PORGY AND BESS. Goerge Gershwin, DuBose and Dorothy Heyward and Ira Gershwin. Paintings by Mike Wimmer. Simon & Schuster. \$17.00. The words of the song *Summertime* from the opera *Porgy and Bess* are illustrated with glorious paintings depicting an African American family's summer day. The musical score for the song is included. **Open Court: Music and Musicians.**

THE SUN IS MY FAVORITE STAR. Frank Asch. Illus. by the author. Harcourt. \$15.00. Of all the stars in the galaxy there is only one that can awaken us in the morning - the sun. The pages of this bright book celebrate a small child's appreciation of the sun.

SUNWING. Kenneth Oppel. Simon & Schuster. \$17.00. In this sequel to *Silverwing*

that is embellished with simulated shark skin, through the pages of text and photos, the reader is immersed in the habits and habitat of the Great White

anything but peaceful. Then Shayla meets Kambia Elaine, a girl with wild stories and when Shayla notices bruises and blood on Kambia Elaine's legs she knows that she needs help -but Kambia doesn't want anyone to know about her legs and Shayla must decide whether to find help or to respect Kambia Elaine's wishes. **YOUNG ADULT.**

WHEN MACK CAME BACK. Brad Strickland. Dial/Penguin. \$15.99. This story takes place in Georgia in 1943 and ten-year-old Maury discovers a sick and starving dog he's sure it is the puppy that his older brother Ben gave away to a friend before going to war. Despite his father's attitude that they don't need another mouth to feed, Maury trades his Christmas gift--a used blue bicycle--to a friend in exchange for money to take Mack to the vet.

WHEN NIGHT TIME COMES NEAR. Judy Pedersen. Illus. by the author. Viking \$16.00. A young child describes what happens in the neighborhood as daytime ends and night begins.

WHO WERE THEY REALLY? THE TRUE STORIES BEHIND FAMOUS CHARACTERS. Susan Beth Pfeffer. Illus. with archival photos. Millbrook. \$23.00. How twelve beloved book characters came to be is the thrust of this book. Includes Alice in Wonderland, Winnie the Pooh, Beatrix Potter, Betsy-Tacy and others.

WHY NOT LAFAYETTE? Jean Fritz. Illus. by Ronald Himler. G.P Putnam's Sons. \$17.00. This is the biography of the French nobleman who fought for democracy in both the United States and France. Includes Notes, Bibliography, Index.

THE WIGWAM AND THE LONGHOUSE. Charlotte Yue and David Yue. Illus. by the authors. Houghton Mifflin. \$15.00. This book describes the history, customs, religion, government, homes, and present-day status of the native peoples who inhabited the eastern woodlands even before the coming of the Europeans.

WINGS. Christopher Myers. Illus. by the author. Scholastic. \$17.00. In brief text and stunning collages, the reader meets Ikarus Jackson, a boy who can fly through the air. Ikarus is mocked and teased, but one friend defends him and cheers him for his differences and individuality. **Open Court: Appearances.**

WIZZIL. William Steig. Illus. by Quentin Blake. Farrar Straus Giroux. \$16.00. Wizzil the witch is bored to the max and decides to go out and make someone

suffer - namely DeWitt Frimp at Frimp Farm. Wizzil torments Dewitt as a fly, then as a glove...but then a spill in the river changes both their lives forever.

YARD SALE! Mitra Modarressi. Illus. by the author. DK Ink . \$16.00. Mr. Fotsam has the first yard sale in the quiet town of Spudville and every purchase produces a surprise. At first the townspeople are angry but soon learn to value the adventures and friendships the yard sale has created. **Open Court: Friendship.**

A YEAR DOWN YONDER. Richard Peck. Dial. \$16.99. In this sequel to *A Long Way From Chicago*, 15-year-old Mary Alice is sent to live with her feisty grandmother in a small town during the Great Depression. As in the earlier book, Grandma Dowdel is never short of adventures and Mary Alice learns not only a great deal about human nature but also that there is wisdom to be gathered from this larger-than-life woman. Richard Peck writes with great insight and humor.

YEAR OF MISS AGNES. Kirkpatrick Hill. Simon & Schuster/Margaret K. McElderry. \$16.00. Ten-year-old Fred (short for Frederika) narrates the story of school and village life among the Athabascans in Alaska during 1948 when Miss Agnes arrived as the new teacher. A wonderful read aloud. **Open Court: Learning.**

YEAR OF THE GRIFFIN. Diana Wynne Jones. HarperCollins. \$16.00. In this sequel to *Dark Lord of Derkholm*, Elda, the griffin daughter of the great Wizard Derk arrives for schooling at the Wizards' University. She encounters new friends, pirates, assassins, sabotage, bloodshed, and magic misused.

