



Children's Book and Media Review

Volume 28 | Issue 3

Article 24

2007

Full Issue

Children's Book Review

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr>

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Review, Children's Book (2007) "Full Issue," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 28 : Iss. 3 , Article 24.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol28/iss3/24>

This Full Issue is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.

Hutchins, Pat. *Barn Dance*. Illustrated by Pat Hutchins. Greenwillow, 2007. ISBN 9780060891220. \$17.89. 32 p.

Reviewer: Marsha D. Broadway

Reading Level: Toddler

Rating: Significant shortcomings

Genre: Animal stories;

Subject: Domestic animals--Juvenile literature; Dance parties--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

With their little ones asleep, Horse, Pig, and Sheep are ready to dance instead of sleep on a bright, full-moon night. They cover the barn's cobblestone floor with hay to muffle the sound of their hooves and begin to dance. Horse pounds the stones so hard that sparkles ignite a fire that must be doused. Exhausted from her efforts, she retires to the hay to join her colt. Sheep bounces into her dance and gets caught in the rafters. Pig piles hay for Sheep to land on. Exhausted Sheep joins her lamb in the hay. Pig begins her jig only to slip on the stones and fall in the water trough. Exhausted Pig joins her little one in the hay. While the mothers sleep, the little ones wake and dance till daybreak when they return to the barn to sleep.

Bright--almost garish--gouache illustrations decorate a simple story. The light source is represented by a white background that is jarring in a nighttime setting. Shadows reveal the cobblestone floor. Some of the pig's spots, which could be mud, appear oddly heart-shaped or bean-like. The story is uninteresting and the illustrations distracting. Another copy of *Rosie's Walk* will be more enjoyed and better used in a library setting. Do-se-do passed this *Barn Dance*.

Volume 28, no. 3 (Jan/Feb 2008)

Kimmel, Eric A.. *The Three Cabritos*. Illustrated by Stephen Gilpin. Marshall Cavendish, 2007. ISBN 9780761453437. \$16.99. 32 p.

Reviewer: Irene Halliday

Reading Level: Toddler, Preschool, Primary

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Fairy tales; Folklore; Picture books;

Subject: Fairy tales; Folklore--Norway; Books—Reviews;

The lure of a fiesta with music, dancing and good things to eat is strong enough to entice the three cabritos (young goats) to risk crossing the bridge over the Rio Grande into Mexico. Their mother warns them to be especially watchful, as the monster Chupacabra lives under the bridge and loves to dine on goats. The brothers are confident that the musical magic in their instruments will protect them. When they play their fiddle, guitar and accordion, even monsters just have to dance!

Kimmel's original retelling of *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, Texas style, is not only great fun, but simply begs to be read aloud. Young children are generally familiar with the essentials of the original tale and will freely recognize the southwestern variations and delight in making comparisons. Kimmel includes a glossary and pronunciation guide for the Spanish names and terms, further enhancing the read-aloud experience. Gilpin's illustrations are simple, uncluttered, bold and brightly-colored, like the American southwest. Sketched with pencil and colored in Photoshop, they compliment Kimmel's breezy text very well. The monster, Chupacabra, is sky blue and should not frighten even very young children.

Volume 28, no. 3 (Jan/Feb 2008)

Barretta, Gene. *Dear Deer: A Book of Homophones*. Illustrated by Gene Baretta. Henry Holt, 2007. ISBN 9780805081046. \$16.95. 40p.

Reviewer: Sandra L. Tidwell

Reading Level: Preschool, Primary

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Fiction; Animal stories;

Subject: English language--Homonyms—Juvenile fiction; Zoo animals—Juvenile fiction; Books—Reviews;

The zoo is Aunt Ant's new home and she writes to her friend Deer, who lives in the forest, about all of her new friends. She ingeniously writes in homophones, words that sound alike, but are spelled differently and have different meanings. Over 30 homophones are used in the text.

This fun picture book can be used to introduce children to this interesting language form. Baretta is both author and illustrator. His colorful water color illustrations cleverly show a moose eating mousse, a ewe in a "daze for days," a giraffe who gets to choose what he chews, a red fox who "blew blue bubbles" etc. The homophones appear in capital bolded letters in the text.

Volume 28, no. 3 (Jan/Feb 2008)

Cole, Henry. *On Meadowview Street*. Illustrated by Cole, Henry. Greenwillow Books, 2007.
ISBN 9780060564827. \$17.89. 32p.

Reviewer: Sandra L. Tidwell

Reading Level: Preschool, Primary

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Contemporary Realistic Fiction;

Subject: Nature--Juvenile fiction; Lawns--Juvenile fiction; Meadows--Juvenile fiction; Suburban life--Juvenile Fiction; Books--Reviews;

Caroline has just moved to Meadowview Street, but where is the meadow? Just as she is about to search for the meadow, she sees a wildflower in the middle of her front yard. Carefully she encloses the wildflower in a little fence of sticks and string, protecting it from being mowed down by her father. From this simple beginning and several wildflowers, a tree, a bird house, and a pond later, Caroline creates a meadow on Meadowview Street. Little by little the neighbors catch on, and the community has a real Meadowview Street.

The book's environmental message is a worthy one, particularly with pleasantly-named housing developments, devoid of bushes and trees, changing the landscape of many communities. Cole's text is engaging, with colorful, realistic, yet playful, illustrations that remind the reader that with careful planning every yard can become a beautiful green space. This book will appeal to nature-lovers, and anyone who is concerned about over-urbanization.

Senning Ed.D, Cindy Post, & Post, Peggy. *Emily's Magic Words: Please, Thank You, and More*. Illustrated by Leo Landry. Collins, 2007. \$15.99. ISBN 9780061116803. 32 p.

Reviewer: Holly Dickman

Reading Level: Preschool, Primary

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Informational books;

Subject: Etiquette--Juvenile literature; Manners--Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews;

Emily is a magician. However, she is not your typical magician. Her magic comes from a special source. It is Emily's words that make magic. Because Emily chooses to use "magic words" such as please, thank you, excuse me, and I'm sorry, she is able to "make smiles appear" and "fix a mistake." There are many various situations depicted in the pages showing the positive effects of using "magic words." The book ends with Emily revealing the most magical of all her magic words: the three words "I love you."

This kid-friendly book shows the purpose of manners and the positive effects manners can have to toddlers and children in a fun and inventive way. The commonly used phrases "say the magic words" are creatively used with a twist. The character Emily is introduced as a girl who does magic. She wears a cape, a black top hat, and carries a magic wand. With each new page, readers can follow the stars, lightning bolts, and swirls that come from Emily's magic wand to the magic words that Emily uses. The word choice is simple, and the pictures reinforce the text, assuring that even young children will be able to understand the message the pictures and text portray. Brightly colored illustrations, colored text, and a young main character will quickly grab the attention of most children. Useful for a read-aloud and lesson on manners in a home or elementary school.

Volume 28, no.3 (Jan/Feb 2008)

Jenkins, Steve. *Dogs and Cats*. Illustrated by Steve Jenkins. Houghton Mifflin, 2007. ISBN 9780618507672. \$16.00. 40 p.

Reviewer: Marsha D. Broadway

Reading Level: Preschool, Primary

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Animal stories;

Subject: Dogs--Miscellanea--Juvenile literature.; Cats--Miscellanea--Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews;

Dogs and Cats is a work of art--cut and torn paper collages began with handmade paper from ten countries. Miscellaneous facts about dogs and cats, their breeds, and their characteristics are divided into two sections, inverted, and placed back to back. Each section ends in the middle with an invitation to turn the book over and read about the other animal. The informational content is widely available in other sources; however, this book should be purchased for its artistic content. The texture, layering, and selection of paper give the illustrations dimension, personality, and sometimes motion. Cat icons in the dog section and vice versa encourage the reader to explore the other section of the book. Creative, clever, and certainly worth adding to a family, school, or public library collection.

Volume 28, no. 3 (Jan/Feb 2008)

Barron, T. A. *The Day the Stones Walked*. Illustrated by William Low. Philomel Books, 2007. ISBN 9780399242632. \$16.99. 32 p.

Reviewer: Sandra L. Tidwell

Reading Level: Primary

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Folklore;

Subject: Easter Island--History--Juvenile fiction; Statues--Juvenile fiction; Tsunamis--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

To Pico the day is beautiful and he has caught two sea urchins and a black crab. When he shows his treasures to Mala, his mother, however, she doesn't notice. Instead, she studies the distant oddly colored clouds and recognizes them from an incident in her childhood. She sends Pico to warn Pala, Pico's father, of the coming "great wave." However, Pico's father won't leave his work. He is carving a moai, another huge rock statue so, when danger threatens, it will be ready to walk and help his people. Pico does not believe the stones had ever or would ever walk and be alive. When Pico sees that the storm really is a tsunami, he runs back to warn his father again, but before he can, he is engulfed in the strong foaming wave and whipped deeper into the ocean. Pico is miraculously saved! By a moai?

Many readers may be drawn to this title because of its author: Barron's widely popular young adult fantasy novels give him name recognition. Another attraction is the mysterious Easter Island statues on the cover. Barron's story is succinct, and the richly colored illustrations have a blurry textured look that fits the legend of this ancient Easter Island culture.

The Author's note at the end of the book explains more about Easter Island, and the stone images that mystify the world. Barron also suggests that deforestation was most likely the reason the native populations, unable to sustain themselves, died out. He then asks, "Will we, who live on the bigger island called Earth, learn from the experience of Easter Island? Or will we make the same mistake on a much larger scale?"

Volume 28, no. 3 (Jan/Feb 2008)

Barrows, Anne. *Ivy and Bean Break the Fossil Record*. Illustrated by Sophie Blackall. Chronicle, 2007. ISBN 9780811856836. \$14.95. 124p.

Reviewer: Sandra L. Tidwell

Reading Level: Primary

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Contemporary Realistic Fiction;

Subject: World records—Juvenile fiction; Fossils—Juvenile fiction; Friendship—Juvenile fiction; Books—Reviews;

Ivy and Bean are second graders and are the best of friends. Bean, in Book 3 of this series, is bored during reading time. Her teacher gives her the book The Amazing Book of World Records. After reading about the weird things people do to get attention, Bean decides that she will break a record, but she doesn't know which record! After a few failures, Ivy suggests they dig for dinosaur bones in Bean's backyard. Perhaps they can set a record for being the youngest paleontologists! While Bean and Ivy are engrossed in their activities, they find they have a lot of friends, and Bean's Dad is supportive of their adventures and treats Bean, Ivy, and their friends who have come to see the bones with banana bread.

This is a cute story about two curious and energetic girls who are anxious to have friends and do new things. Blackall's illustrations reflect the characters' emotions very well. In addition to telling about the give and take relationship between "best friends," this book highlights a supportive role of parents in youngsters' lives. A good choice to read aloud.

Volume 28, no. 3 (Jan/Feb 2008)

Carr, Jan. *Greedy Apostrophe: A Cautionary Tale*. Illustrated by Ethan Long. Holiday House, 2007. ISBN 9780823420063. \$16.95. 32p.

Reviewer: Marsha D. Broadway

Reading Level: Primary

Rating: Significant shortcomings

Genre: Humorous stories;

Subject: Apostrophes-Juvenile fiction; English language-Punctuation-Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Greedy Apostrophe doesn't care for rules and wants to go beyond possessiveness and contractions into many plural forms. Inserting himself where he does not belong gets him into trouble in a classroom where the students try to catch him, but the apostrophe gets away and remains on the loose, showing up where he isn't needed. "Greedy Apostrophe is now banned from working as a punctuation mark." He must be captured and put in the Punctuation Pen to be taught a lesson.

This picture book could have offer a clever strategy for mastering the use of the apostrophe. It did not. The storyline seemed forced, and some examples and statements could promote misunderstanding. Apostrophes are not banned from punctuation. The most instructive page is the appendix, "When Do You Use an Apostrophe?" which simply states the standard rules of applying apostrophes. Pen illustrations with computer-generated color produce people-like punctuation marks to populate the story, but they do little to support a clear understanding of the proper use of apostrophes.

Volume 28, no.3 (Jan/Feb 2008)

Holt, Kimberly Willis. *Piper Reed, Navy Brat*. Illustrated by Christine Davenier. Henry Holt, 2007. ISBN 9780805081978. \$14.95. 160 p.

Reviewer: Marsha D. Broadway

Reading Level: Primary

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Contemporary realistic fiction;

Subject: Moving, Household--Juvenile fiction; Sisters--Juvenile fiction; United States. Navy--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Spunky nine-year-old Piper is the adventurous middle sister in the Reed family that is transferred from California to Pensacola, Florida. The storyline focuses on the move, a visit with extended family along the way, and adjusting to a new school, and is sprinkled with sibling rivalry and affection. Tori, a budding teenager, is by turns annoyed at and protective of her sisters. Five-year old Sam reads Laura Ingalls Wilder books at the breakfast table and poses as a fortune teller to help Piper form a new social club. Piper copes with dyslexia and the fear of reading aloud in class as she finds new friends and delights in watching the Blue Angels and dreaming about becoming a Blue Angel herself. Both mom and dad are involved and loving parents who help their children cope with the changes that the transfer brings.

This easy chapter book no doubt draws on Holt's own experience as a child in a Navy family and appears to be the first in a series of Piper adventures. Everyday life in this military family is not high adventure, but most children will identify with some of the daily routines, squabbles, and social adjustments that Piper encounters. Davenier's pen and ink illustration are sprinkled through the text to support the upbeat story.

Volume 28, no. 3 (Jan/Feb 2008)

Gonyea, Mark. *Another Book About Design: Complicated Doesn't Make It Bad*. Illustrated by Mark Gonyea. Henry Holt, 2007. ISBN 9780805075762. \$19.95. 160 p.

Reviewer: Kate Reynolds

Reading Level: Primary, Intermediate

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Informational Books;

Subject: Design--Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews;

In this sequel to *A Book About Design*, Gonyea explains in simple and understandable terms more elements of design--background, foreground, positive and negative space, unity and complexity. He uses sparse words and simple designs to build understanding about art.

Though this book will probably first be picked up by comic and graphic novel aficionados, it can be used with a much wider audience--despite the superhero cover design there is little about comics contained within. The easy to read large text--black on white--and the bright eye-catching designs create a nice visual balance. *Another Book About Design* is perfect for young artists and even for older children who are unfamiliar with the terms and concepts introduced. An excellent choice for an art class or school library.

Volume 28, no.3 (Jan/Feb 2008)

Creech, Sharon. *The Castle Corona*. Illustrated by David Diaz. HarperCollins, 2007. ISBN 9780060846220. \$19.89. 320 p.

Reviewer: Irene Halliday

Reading Level: Intermediate

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Fiction;

Subject: Orphans--Juvenile fiction; Brothers and sisters--Juvenile fiction; Kings--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Long ago, in a kingdom far away, the Castle Corona rested atop a high hill, its reflection sparkling in the waters of the winding Winono River. King Guido, Queen Gabriella, and their three spoiled children live splendidly there, yet without contentment. Across the river, far beneath the great castle, lay the dusty village of peasants. Here lives a stocky, industrious, poor, yet resilient people. Among them are two orphaned children, Pia and Enzo, who manage to feel happy in spite of cruel mistreatment from their merchant and master Panzini. Unbeknownst to them, exciting adventures and intrigues (even a new life in the castle) await them following their discovery of a mysterious leather pouch carrying the king's seal. Objects in the pouch have the power to unlock secrets from the children's past and change their lives forever. It is because of those secrets that the lives of the Royal Family become much more interesting.

Creech's new medieval tale emerges chapter-by-chapter as she jumps from life at the castle to life in the village. Readers will follow each member of the royal family and the orphan peasants as their lives become ever more intertwined. Though the plot develops slowly, the persistent reader will be rewarded with a satisfying resolution that leaves plenty of room for imagination. Along the way characters grow in self-understanding and wisdom, and find contentment and direction. The tale is greatly enhanced by the physical presentation of the book, which resembles an illuminated medieval text. The large typography, stylized letters beginning each chapter, full-color illustrations set on intricate filigree gold backgrounds, and unevenly-cut page edges help propel the reader back to the time of castles and kings, even before the first word is read. Gifted "illuminator" Diaz demonstrates the imaginative artistry that won him an earlier Caldecott medal. Though certainly not a page-turner, *The Castle Corona* is entertaining. A useful enhancement to a social studies medieval history unit, as well as art history studies.

Volume 28, no. 3 (Jan/Feb 2008)

Bunting, Eve. *The Man with the Red Bag*. Joanna Cotler Books, 2007. ISBN 9780060818357.
\$15.99. 230 p.

Reviewer: Sandra L. Tidwell

Reading Level: Intermediate

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Detective and Mystery Stories;

Subject: Travel--Juvenile fiction; Prejudice--Juvenile fiction; Terrorism--Juvenile fiction; Books-
-Reviews;

Twelve year-old Kevin is on a Star Tours trip to Yellowstone, Mount Rushmore, and the Grand Tetons with his widowed grandmother. The group of 18 people has embarked just a year after 9/11, and Charles Stavros, a gentleman who looks like he is of Middle East descent and always clings to his red travel bag, immediately catches Kevin's attention. Kevin wants to be an author of mystery stories, and he takes notes on everything suspicious Charles Stavros does. His detective assistant is Geneva, who is on the trip with her dad. This trip was ordered by the divorce court judge, but Geneva, who blames her father for not being there when she needed him as a child, is anything but nice to her father. Soon others in the group also begin to distrust Mr. Stavros. It is as if Kevin and Geneva *want* Mr. Stavros to be a terrorist, so they can catch him, turn him in, and be heroes. What is in the red bag? Why is he so secretive about its contents?

This is a great little mystery and an episode that will lead readers to think more deeply about their prejudices against other nationalities and cultures. The story also reveals how difficult it is to heal from tragic events which happen in our families, such as the death of a loved one, separation and divorce. In the end, Kevin and Geneva come to realize that everyone has their own "precious and private" things they want to keep from everyone else. It is only when you really get to know people, and really try to put yourself in their place, that they are willing to share their own personal stories and innermost feelings.

Volume 28, no. 3 (Jan/Feb 2008)

Bateson, Catherine. *Being Bee*. Holiday House, 2007. ISBN 9780823421046. \$16.95. 126 p.

Reviewer: Holly Dickman

Reading Level: Intermediate

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Contemporary realistic fiction;

Subject: Guinea pigs--Juvenile fiction; Bereavement--Juvenile fiction; Unmarried couples--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

After the death of Bee's mother, Bee's heart only has room for her father and her two guinea pigs, Lulu and Fifi. Unfortunately her father's new girlfriend, Jazzzi, would like a spot in Bee's heart as well. To Bee, her father's girlfriend is the worst thing that could possibly happen to her small family. Jazzzi's strange cooking and overly frequent visits are unwelcome. Life gets worse for Bee when her father invites Jazzzi to move in. An unpredicted discovery of a brother, Harley, that Jazzzi has chosen to keep secret, kindles a bond between Bee and Jazzzi. As a result of meeting Harley, as well as additional influences such as receiving notes from her guinea pigs, talking with her grandmother, and running away, Bee begins to accept Jazzzi as a permanent member of her family.

A humorous and touching story of the struggle a young girl must go through in order to let her life change, even if it is for the better. Bee is a loveable character with a strong personality and blunt opinions. The realistic and serious issue of opening one's heart to new love is addressed with humor (especially relating to Bee's pet guinea pigs) and heart warming incidences. Not only will readers fall in love with Bee, but they will also form a connection with Jazzzi as the two characters struggle to develop. Useful for elementary or middle school libraries. Recommended for reluctant readers.

Volume 28, no.3 (Jan/Feb 2008)

Lubar, David. *Punished!* Darby Creek Pub., 2006. ISBN 9781581960631. \$4.99. 96 p.

Reviewer: Sandra L. Tidwell

Reading Level: Intermediate

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Fantasy fiction;

Subject: Boys--Juvenile fiction; Friendship--Juvenile fiction; Word games--Juvenile fiction;

Books--Reviews;

Logan, who would much rather be playing baseball, accompanies his best friend Benedict to the library to work on a report that is due in two weeks. When the boys take time out for a little game of tag before getting down to serious researching, Logan accidentally runs into a mysterious old gentleman. To punish the boy's inappropriate behavior in the library, the gentleman blows some "magic" dust from an old book on to Logan's face. Soon Logan discovers that whenever he talks he speaks in puns. At first it is funny, but when every response, even in school, comes out as a silly pun, he is headed for big trouble with his teacher and with his best friend. He must break the magic spell, so he goes back to the library searching for the old gentleman. The man, Professor Robert Wordsworth, tells Logan he must pass three "tests" before his speech patterns will return to normal. He must find seven oxymorons in a specified time, then seven anagrams, and finally seven palindromes.

This quick read provides a creative way to introduce children to the above mentioned specific language patterns. The cover illustration by Sheban is appropriately inviting. An enjoyable fantasy to help make learning about oxymorons, anagrams, and palindromes fun for children in school or at home.

Volume 28, no. 3 (Jan/Feb 2008)

Polacco, Patricia. *The Lemonade Club*. Illustrated by Patricia Polacco. Philomel Books, 2007. ISBN 9780399245404. \$16.99. 48 p.

Reviewer: Gillian Streeter

Reading Level: Intermediate

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Picture books; Contemporary realistic fiction;

Subject: Cancer--Juvenile fiction; Teacher-student relationships--Juvenile fiction; Schools--Juvenile fiction; Books--reviews;

Marilyn and Traci are best friends--they're in the same fifth grade class, they love their teacher Ms. Wichelman, and they go to each others' houses after school. When Marilyn mysteriously starts losing weight and feeling tired for no reason, Traci is the first to suspect something is wrong with her friend. Marilyn is diagnosed with leukemia and undergoes chemotherapy treatments. Some days are good and others are not. But when she returns to school, she is able to lean on her friends and teacher for strength--and offer support in return, as Ms. Wichelman is battling breast cancer.

Polacco's characteristic blend of pencil outlines and rich watercolor come through strong and familiar in *The Lemonade Club*, as does her use of her own family stories as material: all the characters are real people and no names have been changed. She depicts chemotherapy's side effects of fatigue, illness, and hair loss with unpleasant realism. This book is not so much a light entertainment as it is support for those going through a similar experience. It is not intended for younger readers due to length, subject matter, and reading level. It is strongly recommended for libraries in cancer treatment centers, for informational purposes in school or classroom settings, and possibly for students who know someone going through cancer treatments.

Volume 28, no. 3 (Jan/Feb 2008)

diSandell, Lisa Ann. *Song of the Sparrow*. Scholastic, 2007. ISBN 9780439918480. \$16.99. 394 p.

Reviewer: Betsy Sieber

Reading Level: Intermediate, Young adult

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Historical poetry; Historical fiction;

Subject: Arthur, King--Juvenile fiction; Coming of age--Juvenile Fiction; Knights and Knighthood--Juvenile Fiction; Novels in verse--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Elaine, a girl of sixteen, has lived with Arthur and his army of Britons, since her parents were both killed in an attack on their castle when she was very young. Being the only girl in camp she does a lot of mending, and makes herself useful by evolving into the camp medic: familiarizing herself with many herbs needed to cure sickness and help the wounded. However she is anxious to be seen as more than a little girl by her companions, especially the handsome Lancelot, for whom her once childish crush has blossomed into real affection. The war continues to rage, and a newcomer--Gwynivere, condescending and beautiful--moves into camp, upsetting the already delicate web of relationships in Elaine's life. Elaine and Gwynivere are forced to work together as they are captured by the enemy, and overhear information which may save the lives of Arthur and his men. Elaine's first-hand experiences test her ideals of love and friendship.

This novel in verse has a very likable narrator. Elaine has aspirations and dreams of who she wants to be, but doesn't quite know how to make them come true. Girls from 13 to 17 may enjoy this tale of one girl's journey from the world of children to adults. The free verse is believable, and not difficult to read, with approachable word choice while still remaining well-written. The author has taken much creative license with the storyline, using the names of characters that are familiar to us, but crafting a plot line only loosely substantiated by the already well-known version of the Arthurian knighthood. Purists of King Arthur lore may not care for this re-telling; however teenage girls are sure to love it for not only its literary merit, but its resonating storyline.

Volume 28, no. 3 (Jan/Feb 2008)

George, Jessica Day. *Sun and Moon, Ice and Snow*. Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2008. ISBN 9781599901091. \$16.95. 336 p.

Reviewer: Rachel Wadham

Reading Level: Intermediate, Young adult

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Fantasy stories;

Subject: Folklore--Norway--Juvenile fiction; Fairy tales--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

The Lass has been given the ability to understand animals, so when a great white bear appears at the door of her family home she understands that he wants her to live with him for one year. Seeing this as an opportunity to lift her family out of poverty she goes with the bear to his palace of ice where she is immediately engrossed in a horrible enchantment. With the help of the palace's unique servants and carvings in a cryptic language the Lass is able to uncover some of a devious troll princess's curse, but succumbing to her curiosity before the designated time breaks the enchantment and the bear and the palace are swept away. Left alone it is up to the Lass to shoulder the quest to rescue her true love and assisted by others, such as the four winds, to defeat the troll princess.

Based on the Norwegian folktale "East of the Sun, West of the Moon," George has crafted an unsurpassed fairy tale retelling. Solidly entrenched in the original yet with unique elements that give the tale flavor and depth, each plot element and character is complete and interesting. The Lass is a wonderfully endearing character that readers will cheer for as she completes her complicated quest. Peppered with Norwegian and Old Norse words and phrases the text conveys the setting in a way perfectly crafted to honor the heritage of the original tale. Even though the pacing is not always even readers will certainly be hooked from first word to the triumphant end of this outstanding novel.

Volume 28, no. 3 (Jan/Feb 2008)

Horowitz, Anthony. *Snakehead*. Philomel, 2007. ISBN 9780399241611. \$17.99. 385 p.

Reviewer: Donna Cardon

Reading Level: Young adult

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Adventure stories; Detective and mystery stories;

Subject: Spies--Juvenile fiction; Orphans--Juvenile fiction; Adventure and adventurers--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Horowitz is one of the best YA action writers out there. His chase scenes are as vivid as any movie sequence. This is the seventh in his hugely popular Alex Rider series. Alex is a fourteen year old spy for the British intelligence agency MI6. In this installment he is recruited by the Australian Secret Service to infiltrate an illegal immigrant smuggling ring. As the story progresses, Alex discovers that he must stop an evil mastermind from creating a tsunami that will cause widespread devastation. As in all Alex Rider books, this one is long on action, and short on plot. The characters surrounding Alex are all stereotypical comic book stock. There is the evil demented mastermind, the heartless heads of security, the loyal friend that turns out to be a double agent. Alex is the only complex character. He deals with issues from his past and questions about his future, yet at the end of the book Alex has not really progressed or changed at all. Despite this, the book is entertaining because of the fast passed action scenes and the exotic settings. Horowitz does his research to make sure that each of Alex's unbelievable stunts is set in a realistic location and situation. The reader should beware that the book contains some graphic violence, even more than the earlier books in the series. However Alex, himself, does not intentionally kill anyone and the worst violence is committed by the bad guys.

Volume 28, no. 3 (Jan/Feb 2008)

Flinn, Alex. *Beastly*. HarperCollins, 2007. ISBN 9780060874162. \$17.89. 304p.

Reviewer: Irene Halliday

Reading Level: Young Adult

Rating: Significant shortcomings

Genre: Fiction; Fairy tales;

Subject: Beauty, Personal--Juvenile fiction; New York (N.Y.)--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Retellings of "Beauty and the Beast" are certainly plentiful, but Alex Flinn has managed a unique, contemporary version set in New York City, with a perfectly "beastly" Beast-- rich, handsome, spoiled, crass, unfeeling, maladjusted, 14-year-old Kyle, from a seriously dysfunctional family. Readers rejoice when his highly objectionable behavior results in a magical transformation into a beast by a witch. The "Beauty" teen, Linda (also 14), isn't physically beautiful, but a very ordinary, freckled redhead, living in abject poverty with no mother and an abusive, drug-pushing father. Does this sound like the setting for true love to blossom?

In spite of its excesses, Flinn manages to partially make the story work, even to capture our interest, but isn't as successful in sparking our sympathy for her characters, especially the "beastly" teen hero. Flinn's portrayal of Kyle (the Beast) as the victim of an absent mother and TV celebrity father, who is only concerned about himself and his television image, is somewhat overdrawn. Fortunately, Kyle-as-Adrian (the Beast) does improve over the two year period of the story, but the change seems a little unnatural considering his former anything-but-noble self. We finish the tale feeling wondering if Kyle's former abundant negative traits will again surface, now that he is perfectly tall, handsome and tanned once again. To her credit, Flinn's conversational style is youthful; she is in tune with the popular culture of "some", but only some, teens. Popular slang terms and crass phrases abound, as well as implied sexual activity in the early chapters. Parents may want to preview "Beastly" before allowing their children to read it. Flinn's version of the popular fairy tale is original and has moments of achievement, but suffers from excesses, which leave us questioning the "happily ever after."

Volume 28, no.3 (Jan/Feb 2008)

Tashjian, Janet. *The Gospel According to Larry*. Henry Holt and Co., 2001. ISBN 0805063781. \$16.95. 227 p.

Reviewer: Jan Staheli

Reading Level: Young adult

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Young Adult Fiction;

Subject: Web sites--Juvenile fiction; Fame--Juvenile fiction; Identity--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Josh Swensen, who is *not* your typical 17-year-old, is a high school student with a mission ...well, maybe a two-fold mission. He wants to tell his best friend he's been in love with her since sixth grade, and he wants to change the world. So he starts a blog. He calls it, "The Gospel According to Larry" and regularly rants about consumerism, and advertising companies, and anything else that is bothering him at the time.

"I've written a lot about the crap we fill our lives with--possessions that tie us down, that only distract us from who we are trying to become. But what about the people we surround ourselves with? Are they people who ignite our passions, who spur us to greater self-mastery?...The people we choose to spend our lives with are the people who share our journey--are you surrounded by crewmates or pirates who hijack your time?"

As he fails to make progress with Beth and truth-telling, he begins to make some differences with his blog, until he finds himself faced with a life-changing decision and can see only one way to solve his problem.

Channeling the spirit of a very intelligent teen-aged boy seems easy, as Janet Tashjian makes this story of growth, idealism and angst feel real and urgent. Josh's reasoning makes sense, and the path down which Tashjian leads readers feels logical, inevitable and alarming. There are many thoughtful young people who have similar concerns, who question the world's values and who want to make a difference. Strongly recommended for such people, and the adults who care about them.

Volume 28, no. 3 (Jan/Feb 2008)

Senning, Cindy Post. *Teen Manners: From Malls to Meals to Messaging and Beyond*. Illustrated by Sharon Watts. HarperTeen, 2007. ISBN 9780060881986. \$15.99. 144 p.

Reviewer: Betsy Sieber

Reading Level: Young adult

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Informational books

Subject: Etiquette for children and teenagers--Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews;

This down-to-earth and well-constructed manners guide dictates with humor and taste proper conduct for young teenagers. The text is accompanied by occasional sketches to further encourage adolescent readers. The advice within is written as to be easily approachable and contains many examples, as well as tips, to prove its point. Some of the examples are put together in a “quiz” form a la *Seventeen* magazine, but each option is described in terms of the consequences that would follow--i.e., how your behavior would reflect on your person, were you to make that choice.

An enjoyable and easy to understand read. There is much use of teenage dialect (especially when talking about modern communication, such as cell phones) and the reader never feels like he or she is being talked down to. Although many teenagers wouldn't be caught reading it, it is certainly an excellent resource to make available to them.

Volume 28, no. 3 (Jan/Feb 2008)

ESL and Reluctant Readers Booklist

The following titles are recommended for individuals who are learning English as a second language or who aren't inclined to read. All books are available in the Harold B. Lee Library. The titles are picture books of varying lengths covering a variety of topics, both fiction and nonfiction. This list is ordered according to reading difficulty—the easiest books to read are first, the books with more complex sentence structure and vocabulary are later. Each item includes a Lexile rating—a number which is a measurement of the reading level of the book. For more information on Lexile ratings please visit [Lexile's website](#). Books with higher Lexile ratings are more likely to be text heavy with fewer pictures and include slang or colloquialisms. More titles at specific reading levels can be found by using Lexile's site to search based on Lexile rating or by grade level.

813 C8812c 2006

Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type by Doreen Cronin; pictures by Betsy Lewin.

Lexile rating: 160

When Farmer Brown's cows find a typewriter in the barn they start making demands and go on strike when the farmer refuses to give them what they want.

823 G127d

The Day I Swapped My Dad For Two Goldfish by Neil Gaiman; pictures by Dave McKean.

Lexile rating: 250

After trading his father for two goldfish, a boy and his little sister go on a rollicking adventure around town to get him back.

823 B886wa

The Wall by Eve Bunting; illustrated by Ronald Himler.

Lexile rating: 270

A boy and his father come from far away to visit the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington and find the name of the boy's grandfather, who was killed in the conflict.

813 M992p

Patrol: An American Soldier in Vietnam Walter Dean Myers; collages by Ann Grifalconi.

Lexile rating: 280

A frightened American soldier faces combat in the lush forests of Vietnam.

813 N162a

Albert by Donna Jo Napoli; illustrated by Jim LaMarche.

Lexile rating: 350

One day when Albert is at his window, two cardinals come to build a nest in his hand, an event that changes his life.

811 M6721t

To Market, To Market by Anne Miranda; illustrated by Janet Stevens.

Lexile rating: 350

Starting with the nursery rhyme about buying a fat pig at market, this tale goes on to describe a series of unruly animals that run amok, evading capture and preventing the narrator from cooking lunch.

398.21 H188g

The Girl Who Spun Gold by Virginia Hamilton; illustrated by Leo & Diane Dillon.

Lexile rating: 360

In this African American retelling of "Rumpelstiltskin," Lit'mahn spins thread into gold cloth for the king's new bride.

923 K585ra

Martin's Big Words: The Life of Martin Luther King, Jr. by Doreen Rappaport; illustrations by Brian Collier.

Lexile rating: 410

Picture book biography of the American civil rights leader.

923 C85b

Crazy Horse's Vision by Joseph Bruchac; illustrated by S.D. Nelson.

Lexile rating: 420

A story based on the life of the dedicated young Lakota boy who grew up to be one of the bravest defenders of his people.

305.5 B886f

Fly Away Home by Eve Bunting; illustrated by Gonald Himler.

Lexile rating: 450

A homeless boy who lives in an airport with his father, moving from terminal to terminal and trying not to be noticed, is given hope when he sees a trapped bird find its freedom.

Locked Case 927 P445g

The Man Who Walked Between the Towers by Mordicai Gerstein.

Lexile rating: 480

A lyrical evocation of Philippe Petit's 1974 tightrope walk between the World Trade Center towers. 2004 Caldecott Medal winner for most distinguished picture book.

394.26 N42 L95c

Chinatown by William Low.

Lexile rating: 520

A boy and his grandmother wind their way through the streets of Chinatown, enjoying all the sights and smells of the Chinese New Year's Day.

813 M983z

Zen Shorts by Jon J Muth.

Lexile rating: 540

When Stillwater the bear moves into the neighborhood, the stories he tells to three siblings teach them to look at the world in new ways.

813 An245h

Handel Who Knew What He Liked by M.T. Anderson; illustrated by Kevin Hawkes.

Lexile rating: 550

A man who would later compose some of the world's most beautiful music is shown as a stubborn little boy with a mind of his own.

927 H314k

The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins : An Illuminating History of Mr. Waterhouse Hawkins, Artist and Lecturer by Barbara Kerley; with drawings by Brian Selznick many of which are based on the original sketches of Mr. Hawkins.

Lexile rating: 550

The true story of Victorian artist Benjamin Waterhouse Hawkins, who built life-sized models of dinosaurs in the hope of educating the world about what these awe-inspiring ancient animals and what they were like.

759.13 Ok23w

My Name is Georgia : A Portrait by Jeanette Winter.

Lexile rating: 580

Presents, in brief text and illustrations, the life of the painter Georgia O'Keefe who drew much of her inspiration from nature

813 B581a

Akiak: A Tale From the Iditarod by Robert J. Blake.

Lexile rating: 590

Akiak the sled dog refuses to give up after being injured during the Iditarod sled dog race.

895.7 B198p

Peacebound Trains by Haemi Balgassi; illustrated by Chris K. Soentpiet.

Lexile rating: 620

Sumi's grandmother tells the story of her family's escape from Seoul during the Korean War, while they watch the trains which will eventually bring her mother back from army service.

928 B171111w

The Librarian of Basra: A True Story From Iraq by Jeanette Winter.

Lexile rating: 640

Alia Muhammad Baker is a librarian in Basra, Iraq. For fourteen years, her library has been a meeting place for those who love books. Until now. Now war has come, and Alia fears that the library--along with the thirty thousand books within it--will be destroyed forever.

551.5 Sa991s

Stars Beneath Your Bed: The Surprising Story of Dust by April Pulley Sayre; pictures by Ann Jonas.

Lexile rating: 640

This elegant picture book introduces the concept of dust--what it is, how it travels, and how it stays with us through time. In language both poetic and informative Sayre conveys a sense of wonder at the many small things that make up dust and how it unites people across space and time.

759.13 P765g

Action Jackson by Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan; illustrated by Robert Andrew Parker.

Lexile rating: 650

Imagines Jackson Pollock at work during the creation of one of his paint-swirled and splattered canvasses.

813 W3781222f

Freedom on the Menu: The Greensboro Sit-ins by Carole Boston Weatherford; paintings by Jerome Lagarrigue.

Lexile rating: 660

The 1960 civil rights sit-ins at the Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina, are seen through the eyes of a young Southern black girl.

591.763 M834p

Pond by Gordon Morrison

Lexile rating: 660

Observes how a glacial pond and the abundance of plants and animals that draw life from it change over the course of a year.

843 Sa22L 2000

The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry; translated from the French by Richard Howard.

Lexile rating: 710

An aviator whose plane is forced down in the Sahara Desert encounters a little prince from a small planet who relates his adventures in seeking the secret of what is important in life.

927 R835k

Wilma Unlimited: How Wilma Rudolph Became the World's Fastest Woman by Kathleen Krull; illustrated by David Diaz.

Lexile rating: 730

A biography of the African-American woman who overcame crippling polio as a child to become the first woman to win three gold medals in track in a single Olympics.

813 AL277b

Behold the Trees by Sue Alexander; illustrated by Leonid Gore.

Lexile rating: 770

A land once protected by all sorts of wonderful trees is reduced over time by war and environmental neglect to desert, until new inhabitants plant trees and slowly make Israel bloom again.

927 M694m

Mighty Jackie: The Strike Out Queen by Marissa Moss; illustrated by C.F. Payne.

Lexile rating: 770

In 1931, seventeen-year-old Jackie Mitchell pitches against Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig in an exhibition game, becoming the first professional female pitcher in baseball history.

891.8 Si81t

The Three Golden Keys by Peter Sis.

Lexile rating: 770

Led by a cat on a magical journey through Prague, a man encounters some of the city's landmarks and three traditional Czech fairy tales while trying to find the keys to his childhood home.

927 An24r

When Marian Sang: The True Recital of Marian Anderson by Pam Muñoz Ryan; illustrations by Brian Selznick.

Lexile rating: 780

An introduction to the life of Marian Anderson, extraordinary singer and civil rights activist, who was the first African American to perform at the Metropolitan Opera and whose life and career encouraged social change.

923 T777r

Only Passing Through: The Story of Sojourner Truth by Anne Rockwell; illustrated by R. Gregory Christie.

Lexile rating: 790

A powerful biography of one of the abolitionist movement's most compelling voices. Sojourner Truth traveled the country in the latter half of the 19th century, speaking out against slavery. Sojourner's simple yet powerful words helped people to understand the hideous truth about slavery.

813 R983af

An Angel for Solomon Singer by Cynthia Rylant; paintings by Peter Catalanotto.

Lexile rating: 800

A lonely New York City resident finds companionship and good cheer at the Westway Cafe where dreams come true.

833 B853c

The Collector of Moments by Quint Buchholz; translated from the German by Peter F. Neumeyer.

Lexile rating: 800

When Max, an artist, departs for a long journey, the boy who is his friend and neighbor visits his apartment and discovers an exhibition of pictures created just for him.

919.8 M3644L

The Lamp, The Ice, And a Boat Called Fish: Based on a True Story by Jacqueline Briggs Martin; pictures by Beth Krommes.

Lexile rating: 810

Tells the dramatic story of the Canadian Arctic Expedition that set off in 1913 to explore the high north.

940.54 T153a

Attack on Pearl Harbor: the True Story of the Day America Entered World War II by Shelley Tanaka; paintings by David Craig; maps by Jack McMaster; historical consultation by John Lundstrom.

Lexile rating: 820

Part of the I Was There series, depicts December 7, 1941 from the eyes of four young men who experienced the attack on Pearl Harbor.

927 B446m

Snowflake Bentley Jacqueline Briggs Martin; illustrated by Mary Azarian.

Lexile rating: 830

A biography of a self-taught scientist who photographed thousands of individual snowflakes in order to study their unique formations.

926 H24641L

The Man Who Made Time Travel by Kathryn Lasky; paintings by Kevin Hawkes.

Lexile rating: 840

Describes the need for sailors to be able to determine their position at sea and the efforts of John Harrison, an eighteenth century man who spent his life refining instruments to enable them to do this.

811 L86p 2001

The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow; gravé and painted by Christopher Bing.

Lexile rating: 850

An illustrated version of the narrative poem which describes Paul Revere's midnight ride in 1775 to warn the people of the Boston countryside of an impending attack by the British.

305.892 W831c

Coming to America: A Muslim Family's Story by Bernard Wolf

Lexile rating: 870

Depicts the joys and hardships experienced by a Muslim family that immigrates to New York City from Alexandria, Egypt, in the hope of making a better life for themselves.

813 G1837L

The Lotus Seed by Sherry Garland.

Lexile rating: 880

A young Vietnamese girl saves a lotus seed and carries it with her everywhere to remember a brave emperor and the homeland that she has to flee.

304.8 M268c

Coming to America: The Story of Immigration by Betsy Maestro; illustrated by Susannah Ryan.

Lexile rating: 890

Illustrated history of immigration.

Locked Case 925 D259si

The Tree of Life: A Book Depicting the Life of Charles Darwin, Naturalist, Geologist & Thinker by Peter Sis.

Lexile rating: 890

Presents the life of the famous nineteenth-century naturalist using text from Darwin's writings and detailed drawings by Sis.

398.22 H666m

Merlin and the Making of the King retold by Margaret Hodges from Sir Thomas Malory's *Le Morte d'Arthur*; illustrated by Trina Schart Hyman.

Lexile rating: 910

A retelling of four Arthurian legends, "The Sword in the Stone," "Excalibur," "The Lady of the Lake," and "The Last Great Battle," which feature Merlin, King Arthur, and other familiar figures.

688 W956t

Toys! Amazing Stories Behind Some Great Inventions by Don Wulffson; with illustrations by Laurie Keller.

Lexile rating: 920

Describes the creation of a variety of toys and games, from seesaws to Silly Putty and toy soldiers to Trivial Pursuit.

630 L584f

Fair! By Ted Lewin.

Lexile rating: 930

Describes the sights, sounds, and smells of a county fair, from the setting up of the Ferris wheel to the animal, craft, and food judging.

759.5 M582s

Michelangelo by Diane Stanley.

Lexile rating: 940

A biography of the Renaissance sculptor, painter, architect, and poet, well known for his work on the Sistine Chapel in Rome's St. Peter's Cathedral.

928 Se81k

The Boy on Fairfield Street: How Ted Geisel Grew Up to Become Dr. Seuss by Kathleen Krull; paintings by Steve Johnson and Lou Fancher; with decorative illustrations by Dr. Seuss.

Lexile rating: 950

Introduces the life of renowned children's author and illustrator Ted Geisel, popularly known as Dr. Seuss, focusing on his childhood and youth in Springfield, Massachusetts.

928 B629c

The Daring Nellie Bly: America's Star Reporter by Bonnie Christensen.

Lexile rating: 970

Introduces the life of Nellie Bly who, as a "stunt reporter" for the New York World newspaper in the late 1800s, championed women's rights and traveled around the world faster than anyone ever had.

759.13 R594g

Norman Rockwell: Storyteller With a Brush by Beverly Gherman.

Lexile rating: 980

Describes the life and work of the popular American artist who depicted both traditional and contemporary subjects, including children, family scenes, astronauts, and the poor.

931 Oc5e

The Emperor's Silent Army: Terracotta Warriors of Ancient China by Jane O'Connor.

Lexile rating: 980

Describes the archaeological discovery of thousands of life-sized terracotta warrior statues in northern China in 1974, and discusses the emperor who had them created and placed near his tomb.

923 F85fL

Ben Franklin's Almanac: Being a True Account of the Good Gentleman's Life by Candace Fleming.

Lexile rating: 1000

Brings together eighteenth century etchings, artifacts, and quotations to create the effect of a scrapbook of the life of Benjamin Franklin.

597.3 W154f

Fossil Fish Found Alive: Discovering the Coelacanth by Sally M. Walker.

Lexile rating: 1000

Describes the 1938 discovery of the coelacanth, a fish previously believed to be extinct and subsequent research about it.

595.79 M341o

Outside and Inside Killer Bees by Sandra Markle.

Lexile rating: 1010

Whether it's fear or fascination, most people have strong feelings about bees. Although everyone knows that honeybees are nature's helpers, who doesn't get goose bumps at the thought of being attacked by "killer bees"?

973.3 F85s

The Signers: The Fifty-six Stories Behind the Declaration of Independence by Dennis Brindell Fradin; illustrations by Michael McCurdy.

Lexile rating: 1010

Profiles each of the fifty-six men who signed the Declaration of Independence, giving historical information about the colonies they represented. Includes the text of the Declaration and its history.

952 N145b

Shipwrecked! The True Adventures of a Japanese Boy by Rhoda Blumberg.

Lexile rating: 1020

In 1841, rescued by an American whaler after a terrible shipwreck left him and his four companions castaways on a remote island, fourteen-year-old Manjiro learns new laws and customs as he becomes the first Japanese person to set foot in the United States.

598.47 W384m

My Season with Penguins: An Antarctic Journal by Sophie Webb.

Lexile rating: 1040

Describes the author's two-month stay in Antarctica to study and draw penguins.

923 R677fL

Our Eleanor: A Scrapbook Look at Eleanor Roosevelt's Remarkable Life by Candace Fleming.

Lexile rating: 1040

Eleanor Roosevelt's influence on American life in the last century is undeniable. A remarkable perspective on a remarkable woman.

338.5 B627s

Six Days in October: The Stock Market Crash of 1929 by Karen Blumenthal.

Lexile rating: 1040

A comprehensive review of the events, personalities, and mistakes behind the Stock Market Crash of 1929, featuring photographs, newspaper articles, and cartoons of the day.

398.209415 H35n

The Names Upon the Harp: Irish Myth and Legend by Marie Heaney; illustrated by P.J. Lynch.

Lexile rating: 1050

Contains eight Irish folktales sampled from the three main cycles of early Irish literature. Introductions to each cycle set the stage for the stories to come.

629.45 T348tm

Team Moon: How 400,000 People Landed Apollo 11 on the Moon by Catherine Thimmesch.

Lexile rating: 1060

A rare perspective on a story of Apollo 11. Includes direct quotes from some who worked behind the scenes along with information from NASA transcripts, national archives, and NASA photos.

974.7 M954b

Blizzard: The Storm that Changed America by Jim Murphy.

Lexile rating: 1080

Presents a history, based on personal accounts and newspaper articles, of the massive snow storm that hit the Northeast in 1888, focusing on the events in New York City.

923 H287a

Hatshepsut, His Majesty Herself by Catherine M. Andronik; illustrated by Joseph Daniel Fiedler.

Lexile rating: 1080

A picture book biography of Hatshepsut, a queen in ancient Egypt who declared herself king and ruled as such for more than twenty years.

920.72 K939L

Lives of Extraordinary Women: Rulers, Rebels (and What the Neighbors Thought) by Kathleen Krull; illustrated by Kathryn Hewitt.

Lexile rating: 1150

Take an entertaining sneak peek behind public personas with this two-volume series of the lives of remarkable people. The text is engaging, lively, and entirely fascinating for readers. Colorful and humorous illustrations highlight bad habits, silly nicknames, strange pets, odd behaviors, and everyday activities

577.5 B47d

A Handful of Dirt by Raymond Bial.

Lexile rating: 1190

Discusses the nature and importance of soil and the many forms of life it supports.

975.3 C928c

Capital by Lynn Curlee

Lexile rating: 1220

Provides a history of Washington, D.C., focusing on the National Mall, its monuments and surrounding buildings.

Compiled by Kate Reynolds,
Farnsworth Juvenile Literature Library,
Harold B. Lee Library,
Brigham Young University, February 2008.