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Full Issue

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Greene, Ellin. *Mother's song: a lullaby*. Illustrated by Elizabeth Sayles. Clarion Books, 2008. ISBN 9780395715277. \$17.00. 34 p.

Reviewer: Sandra L. Tidwell

Reading Level: Toddler; Preschool;

Rating: Outstanding;

Genre: Picture Books; Lullabies;

Subject: Lullabies--Juvenile fiction; Folk Songs, English--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Mother's Song is a lovely lullaby adapted by Greene. A mother and her baby are pictured amidst the magical world of fairies and elves. Sayles' illustrations are of soft but rich pastel tones, which perfectly portray the calming tone of this lullaby. Each page-turn reveals a two-page-spread (at the end of the book is a three-page fold-out) of fairies and elves dancing, playing musical instruments, slumbering in delicate blossoms, or gently floating on the air or on calm water in tiny leaf boats. Delicate butterflies, a sparrow, bumblebees, and other animals help portray the verses as well. My favorite verse, "Ten thousand pearls beneath the sea, My babe more precious is to me," shows five fairies of different nationalities sewing pearls on leaves, which will soon crown the heads of the mother and her baby.

Mother's Song celebrates motherhood and emphasizes the blessings and strengths of a mother's love for her baby. "A baby is more precious than beautiful blossoms and ten thousand pearls, a baby's eyes brighter than stars, a baby's hair finer than silk." Thanks to the research of Reverend Sabine Baring-Gould, the author of "Onward, Christian Soldiers" and "Now the Day is Over," we have the words to this beautiful English folk song. Although the original melody for this lullaby has been lost, an adapted musical score by Paul Alan Levi is included at the back of the book. The simple arrangement has a lilting, soothing tone.

Volume 29, no.1 (September/October 2008)

Cox, Judy. *One is a Feast for Mouse: A Thanksgiving Tale*. Illustrated by Jeffrey Ebbeler. Holiday House, 2008. ISBN 9780823419777. \$16.95. 36 p.

Reviewer: Sandra L. Tidwell

Reading Level: Toddler, Preschool, Primary

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Picture books; Holiday stories;

Subject: Thanksgiving Day--Juvenile fiction; Mice--Juvenile fiction; Greed--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

One Is a Feast for a Mouse is a picture book just right for Thanksgiving after-the-feast story time. Mouse, who is celebrating all alone, has an empty plate until he ventures out of his hidey-hole. The family has finished their dinner, and everyone, including the cat, is peacefully napping. Mouse first sees a plump green pea and exclaims, "One is a feast for me." However, Mouse sees that the leftovers abound! He isn't content with just one pea. He must have a juicy red cranberry, an olive, a carrot stick, a scoop of mashed potatoes, gravy and the last piece of pumpkin pie! But when the cat wakes up, Mouse must scurry back to his hole while trying to keep all the food he has pilfered.

Children will enjoy the repetition in Cox's cumulative story and Ebbeler's true-to-life fanciful colored illustrations of Mouse's food balancing act. It also might give readers a cute idea for Thanksgiving place-cards: tracings of a child's hand colorfully decorated into turkeys. A good reminder for children (and adults) to "Give thanks!" and appreciate the little things when the Thanksgiving table is piled high with goodies.

Volume 29, no. 1 (September/October 2008)

Kirk, Shoshanna and Sara Gillingham. *T is for Tugboat: Navigating the Seas from A to Z*.
Illustrated by Various. Chronicle Books, 2008. ISBN 9780811860949. \$15.99. 40 p.

Reviewer: Kate Reynolds

Reading Level: Preschool, Primary

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Picture books; Informational books;

Subject: Navigation--History--Encyclopedias--Juvenile literature; Naval history--Encyclopedias--Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews;

With a bevy of alphabet books available, this volume of maritime words stands out as both educational and entertaining. Most of the letters have multiple words or phrases associated with them, and the words all have some sort of visual representation — a photograph, a diagram, an illustration, etc.

An informative and appealing introduction to "navigating the seas" for young children, this alphabet book may also appeal to older children, because it includes types of ships that may be unfamiliar (a zulu is a Scottish fishing boat and a junk is a Chinese sailboat), Morse code, and even a two-page spread illustrating various knots. After Z is a diagram of a ship with parts labeled and the endpapers display the international code of maritime flags. Ideal for any nautical fan to share with a child.

Volume 29, no. 1 (Sep/Oct 2008)

Llewellyn, Claire. *Ask Dr. K. Fisher about Creepy-Crawlies*. Illustrated by Sheppard, Kate. Kingfisher, 2008. ISBN 9780753461808. \$10.95. 32 p.

Reviewer: Larysa Bordner

Reading Level: Primary, Intermediate

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Informational books; Picture books;

Subject: Entomology--Juvenile literature; Insects--Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews;

Dr. K. Fisher is a bird that knows all about insects and helps them learn more about their unique bodies in the book *Ask Dr. K. Fisher about Creepy-Crawlies*. He explains that insects' bodies work the way they do to serve individual purposes, and that makes each of them interesting and special.

This book is set up in a question and answer format; there are letters written from different insects asking specific questions about themselves, accompanied with the response from Dr. K. Fisher. Between the letters, there are also fact pages about body types, wings, colonies, and camouflaging. The book includes fun, labeled illustrations which correlate perfectly with the text. This is an entertaining guide for children to learn more about insects in an original way.

Volume 28, no. 6 (July/August 2008)

Jenkins, Steve and Robin Page. *Sisters and Brothers: Sibling Relationships in the Animal World*. Illustrated by Jenkins, Steve. Houghton Mifflin, 2008. ISBN 9780618375967. \$16.00. 32 p.

Reviewer: Marsha D. Broadway

Reading Level: Primary, Intermediate

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Informational

Subject: Animals--Juvenile literature; Brothers and sisters--Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews;

Family relationships are quirky--even in the animal kingdom. Intriguing facts about twenty-one animal families from African elephants to black widow spiders to Cuckoo catfish pique readers' curiosities. The New Mexico whiptail lizard families are all female. Wild turkey brothers are lifelong friends while grizzly bear brothers will fight for dominance. A myna bird will become foster mother to the Asian Koel egg laid in her nest even though the Koel is larger and hungrier than her own chicks.

One- and two-page spreads contain pithy text and lively textured paper illustrations. With his trademark cut-and torn-paper collages, Jenkins gives movement and vitality to the animal families. An appendix supplies additional facts about each species. The short additional reading list is weighted toward books more for intermediate and middle school readers with two or three titles for primary-level readers. In addition to children ages 7-11, reluctant readers may find this picture book appealing.

Volume 29, no.1 (September/October 2008)

Return to Fairyopolis. Illustrated with reproductions of Cicely Mary Barker's illustrations.
Penguin Books, 2008. ISBN 9780723259961. \$17.99. 24 p.

Reviewer: Sandra L. Tidwell

Reading Level: Primary, Intermediate

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Fantasy fiction; Toy and movable books;

Subject: Fairies--Juvenile fiction; Barker, Cicely Mary--Juvenile fiction; Diaries--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Do you believe in fairies? Have you ever seen a fairy? Sixteen-year-old Dulcie, after reading a book about fairies written by her friend Cicely M. Barker, writes to Cicely and asks why she hasn't seen a fairy in a long time. *Return to Fairyopolis* is Dulcie's colorful scrapbook journal from March 1, 1933, to June 24, 1933. Each page turn reveals Dulcie's hand-penned journal entries, letters to and from Cicely, ticket stubs, programs, pressed flowers, seed packets, photographs, glittered fold-up flowers with messages from fairies, envelopes to open and notes to read, book covers to open, and, of course, lots of illustrations of fairies and elves.

Young girls will eagerly open this book, and many readers will be delighted to turn the last page and hear the mysterious ringing notes as the delicate double-spread pop-up of a magical fairy garden unfolds. The journal entries invite the reader to keep reading to find out how to get fairies to appear. Who better than Cicely Mary Barker (1895-1973), the famous English illustrator and creator of flower fairies, to answer Dulcie's earnest questions? Reproductions of many of Barker's intricate flower fairy colored drawings are included in this selection.

Volume 29, no. 1 (September/October 2008)

Prineas, Sarah. *The Magic Thief*. Illustrated by Caparo, Antonio Javier. HarperCollins, 2008. ISBN 9780061375873. \$16.99. 422 p.

Reviewer: Kate Reynolds

Reading Level: Primary, Intermediate

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Fantasy fiction;

Subject: Magic--Juvenile fiction; Wizards--Juvenile fiction; Apprentices--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Conn is a common street pickpocket living in the Twilight of Wellmet, until he steals a wizard's locus magicalicus—the stone that is the focus of a wizard's spells and power. The wizard Nevery, surprised to find that the stone did not kill the young thief, takes him as his apprentice. Conn, however, must first find his own locus magicalicus even while he attends school and helps Nevery unravel the mystery of why magic is disappearing from Wellmet.

Prineas' debut novel is full of engaging characters, from Nevery, who was banished twenty years prior for reasons not fully explained to the reader but which somehow involved explosions, to Conn, who isn't sure what age he is and has never attended school but who has great instincts and an even better memory, to Benet, the hired muscle who is rather fearsome but likes to knit and makes delicious biscuits (recipe included!). Other characters are less well defined, but no less interesting. Though told mostly from Conn's first person point of view, the chapters are interspersed with Nevery's journal entries and "notes-to-self". Some of the journal entries have strange characters at the bottom of the page. A key to interpreting these characters is at the back of the book and readers will enjoy finding out what they say. The plot is fast moving, and, though the page total exceeds 400 pages, it would be a good choice for readers not mature enough for the darker themes and events in Harry Potter. Fans of Patricia C. Wrede's *Mairelon the Magician* and *Magician's Ward* (Starscape, 2002) will also enjoy this book.

Volume 29, no. 1 (September/October 2008)

Forester, Victoria. *The Girl Who Could Fly*. Feiwel and Friends, 2008. ISBN 9780312374624. \$16.95. 336 p.

Reviewer: Kate Reynolds

Reading Level: Intermediate

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Science fiction;

Subject: Ability--Juvenile fiction; Individuality--Juvenile fiction; Laboratories--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

As an infant, Piper McCloud could float, and at the age of nine she taught herself how to fly. Her very practical parents kept her on the farm because people being able to fly "ain't the way of things." But when Piper demonstrates her ability in front of a large crowd the government shows up to take her to a school full of other extraordinary children. At the school, though, Piper eventually finds out that the head, Dr. Letitia Hellion, is far from encouraging her students' abilities and has only one goal in mind: to force the children into normal, unremarkable lives.

Forester's first novel, despite superhero powers, is pure vanilla. The plot and characters will soon be forgotten after reading and few readers will even care about the hints of questions to be answered in a sequel. However, as a fairly innocuous read, it may be worth a few hours' diversion for pre-teens with nothing else to do.

Volume, 28 no. 6 (July/August 2008)

Eaton, Jason Carter. *The Facttracker*. Illustrated by Constantin, Pascale. Harpercollins Publishers, 2008. ISBN 9780060564353. \$17.89. 260 p.

Reviewer: Lauren Bangerter

Reading level: Intermediate; Young adult;

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Humorous fiction;

Subject: Truth--Juvenile fiction; Honesty--Juvenile fiction; Humorous stories--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Reminiscent of the fantasy worlds created by Norton Juster and Roald Dahl, the city of Traackerfaxx in *The Facttracker* is that magical, yet believable blend of reality with the improbable. *The Facttracker* chronicles the adventure of the just small enough boy through his discovery of the value and power in facts and lies. When the Facttracker's factory explodes, the just small enough boy works with the Facttracker (the man who finds and distributes facts on everything from the popularity of sweet potatoes to the ever changing population of Nebraska) to overcome the Facttracker's long lost evil twin brother, Erstaz. With the Facttracker is trapped and beleaguered by Erstaz's lies, it is up to the just small enough boy to save the day. On his journey he learns that in order to have facts, there must be lies, and in order to have lies, there must be facts -- both of which begin with the seed of truth, and wisdom comes in how one uses them.

The Facttracker is a creative, refreshing, thought-provoking novel which keeps the reader engaged, laughing, and turning pages. Eaton has a knack for story telling, and this story would capture the interest of any age.

Volume 29, no.1 (September/October 2008)

Hale, Shannon and Dean. *Rapunzel's Revenge*. Illustrated by Nathan Hale. Bloomsbury, 2008. ISBN 9781599900704. \$18.99. 144 p.

Reviewer: Donna Cardon

Reading Level: Intermediate

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Fairytales; Graphic Novels;

Subject: Rapunzel--Juvenile fiction; Graphic novels--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Newbery Honor author Shannon Hale has teamed up with her husband to create a delightfully whacky graphic novel version of Rapunzel. Rapunzel is the sheltered and lonely (supposed) daughter of a powerful southwestern patrona, Gothel. On her twelfth birthday, Rapunzel discovers the terrible working conditions outside the hacienda walls and the truth about her real parents who have been forced to work as slaves in Gothel's mines. Rapunzel denounces her former life so Gothel uses plant magic to grow a giant tree and imprisons Rapunzel in its top. The magic that Gothel uses to grow the tree also makes Rapunzel's hair grow, and she eventually uses her hair to escape. Rapunzel meets a thief named Jack, of course, and together they set off to bring an end to Gothel's evil control over the region.

The way Hale has twisted a familiar fairy tale to make the female character stronger is reminiscent of Levine's *Princess Tales* (e.g. *Princess Sonora and the Long Sleep*, Harper 1999). This is definitely a strong girl book. Jack repeatedly leaves the fighting to Rapunzel who uses her hair like a bull whip to defeat the bad guys. The text is spare, mostly dialog, allowing the illustrations to tell the remainder of the story. Nathan Hale's illustrations are colorful, fun, and full of action. They clearly communicate not only what is happening, but also how the characters feel. Nothing but pure fun and a great book for reluctant reader girls.

Volume 29, no. 1 (Sept/Oct 2008)

Alexander, Sally Hobart and Robert Alexander. *She Touched the World: Laura Bridgman, Deaf-blind Pioneer*. Clarion Books, 2008. ISBN 9780618852994. \$18.00. 100 p.

Reviewer: Sandra L. Tidwell

Reading Level: Intermediate, Young Adult

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Biographies;

Subject: Bridgman, Laura Dewey, 1829-1889 --Juvenile literature; Deafblind women --United States --Biography --Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews;

A young girl, with a ribbon covering her eyes, is on the stage in front of a "tactile" world globe. An eager and astounded audience looks on. This glossy colored book cover is eye-catching. Most Americans have probably heard of Helen Keller and how she successfully met the challenges of being both deaf and blind, but few people heard of Laura Bridgman, who preceded Helen by fifty years. Laura, at the age of five, became deaf and blind after a bout with scarlet fever. A highly inquisitive and intelligent child, Laura learned about her environment by feeling and "hearing" sound vibrations. She said that her right foot "heard" better than her left foot! Laura explained her senses as being "think, nose, mouth, and fingers." *She Touched the World* is a carefully researched biography of Laura's entire life: her birth and growing-up years in Hanover, New Hampshire, her early education in Perkins School for the Blind in Boston her famous performances to exhibit the abilities she had developed despite her disabilities, and her death at age 58.

Biographer Sally Hobart Alexander became blind at age 26 and started losing her hearing the following year. She and her husband Robert coauthored this book. The narrative has a personal quality that comes from Alexander's unique perspective. Interesting black-and-white photos, detailed source notes and bibliography, and an index round out the features of this exceptional biography.

Hahn, Daniel and Leonie Flynn. *The Ultimate Teen Book Guide*. Walker, 2008. ISBN 9780802797308. \$26.95. 431 p.

Reviewer: Kate Reynolds

Reading Level: Young adult

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Informational books;

Subject: Young adult literature--Book reviews--Juvenile literature; Teenagers--Books and reading--Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews;

This incredibly handy and concise guide includes reviews and recommendations for what to read next for over 700 titles. The titles included cover a wide variety of genres—both fiction and non-fiction—and is not limited to the most recent popular titles: *Anna Karenina* and *Great Expectations* are included right along with *Artemis Fowl* and *Twilight*. Each title has a blurb from an author, teacher, librarian or reader; an indication of the appropriate age group for the title; and a small "Next?" section which not only suggests other titles readers might enjoy but also indicates how it is similar to the title in question.

Interspersed throughout the book are longer discussions of genres and the results of various polls (character you would most like to be, books you would like made into films, and books that scared you most, to name a few). It is an invaluable source for teachers, parents and librarians helping teenagers. More willing and ambitious readers will pick this one up themselves to browse through, so make sure it is not hidden away among the reference books.

Volume 28, no. 6 (July/August 2008)

Shields, Charles J. *I am Scout*. Henry Holt and Company, 2008. ISBN 9780805083347. \$18.95.
246 p.

Reviewer: Lauren Bangerter

Reading Level: Young adult

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Informational books; Biography;

Subject: Lee, Harper--Juvenile literature; Authors, American--20th Century--Biography--
Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews;

Beginning in the small town of Monroeville, Shields reconstructs and narrates the quiet life of Pulitzer Prize winning author Harper Lee. Commenting on experiences Lee had in her home town, in college, and then as an author in New York, Shields expounds Lee's personality and motivation to write, highlighting similarities between Lee's life and her novel. Shields has done a superb job of combining the little information Lee has given about herself with interviews by Lee's friends and associates to create an intriguing and informative read. Shields speaks with a warm, small-town conversational tone characteristic of the South and of Lee's masterpiece *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Volume 28, no. 6 (July/August 2008)

McKinley, Robin. *Dragonhaven*. Putnam's, 2008. ISBN 9780399246753. \$17.99. 342 p.

Reviewer: Lauren Bangerter

Reading Level: Young adult

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Science fiction;

Subject: Dragons--Juvenile fiction; Human-animal communications--Juvenile fiction; Animals, mythical--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Dragonhaven follows the experience of Jake Mendoza when he finds a baby dragon deep inside the Smokehill National Park—a park founded and built for the study and preservation of dragons. Dragons in general are a controversial subject and Smokehill has been suffering from little funding and bad publicity after Jake's mom, a renowned dragon scientist, disappeared and turned up dead several months later. The fact that Jake has now become surrogate mother to a baby dragon only adds to these pressures as United States legislature makes aiding dragons illegal. Jake and his dragonlet Lois learn and grow together as they cope with the loss of their mothers, find strength in each other and friends who sacrifice much to help them, and bridge the gap between human and dragon communication.

The story is told by Jake and takes the form of a stream-of-conscious-like memoir. *Dragonhaven* is suggested for an older audience in order to understand this rambling-like tone and serious situations, as well as some language. The story is compelling and Jake's candid voice keeps the reader turning pages, however, there are no battle scenes and intense action like other McKinley novels about dragons; Jake spends much of the novel sleeping, and even though there is some excitement and flying dragons, the story focuses more on the psychological and emotional side of those situations.

Volume 28, no. 6 (July/August 2008)

Palmer, Robin. *Cindy Ella*. Penguin Group, 2008. ISBN 9780142403921. \$7.99. 264 p.

Reviewer: Larysa Bordner

Reading Level: Young adult

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Contemporary realistic fiction;

Subject: Proms--Juvenile fiction; Interpersonal relations--Juvenile fiction; Individuality--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Cindy Ella Gold is not like the other people who attend her high school. She may be rich and pretty, but she does not care about designer clothes, fancy cars, or having the perfect look. But the one thing that separates her from her peers the most is her disdain for prom. She believes the whole thing should be done away with because it is a superficial tradition, and she lets everyone know this when she writes a letter to the school paper. Her letter brings up a great deal of controversy, and in some unexpected ways, it goes to show Cindy that things are not always what they seem, and modern day fairy tales really do exist.

Palmer explores some of society's shallow traditions through the eyes of one teenage girl with a quirky sense of humor. She talks about issues dealing with weight, popularity, love, sexual orientation, and other aspects of being a teenager in today's society. *Cindy Ella* is dramatic, mainly because it is told from the perspective of a teenage girl, but it is entertaining and leaves the reader with warm fuzzies knowing that although things do not always end as planned, life and this story have an unexpected way of ending right.

Volume 28, no. 6 (July/August 2008)

Klinger, Shula. *The Kingdom of Strange*. Marshall Cavendish, 2008. ISBN 9780761453956.
\$16.99. 298 p.

Reviewer: Larysa Bordner

Reading Level: Young Adult

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Contemporary Realistic Fiction;

Subject: Authorship--Juvenile fiction; Interpersonal relations--Juvenile fiction; Self-perception--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Thisbe is an aspiring author who encounters some unexpected speed bumps when her English teacher assigns a new project. Mr. Oliver wants the class to explore what it means to be or to have an audience. As part of the assignment, Thisbe makes a new online friend named Iphis, who goes to a nearby school. Iphis soon becomes the audience for Thisbe's writing, and from there, things begin spinning as Thisbe tries to understand her body, people around her, life plans, and her writing. Thisbe contemplates where the line actually lies between writing and living for herself, or writing and living for an audience — all in her own strange kingdom of words.

The Kingdom of Strange is the story of a teenage girl trying to navigate her way through high school, but it has a slightly different feel because it is formatted as journal entries and emails. Klinger approaches serious subjects with Thisbe's sense of humor and Grandma Edna's older wisdom, leaving the reader laughing and pondering simultaneously. The content is fresh and uplifting, making this a suitable book for any young adults who are looking to escape for a while from their own worlds into Thisbe's.

Volume 29, no. 1 (Sep/Oct 2008)

Jaffe, Michele. *Kitty Kitty*. HarperTeen, 2008. ISBN 9780060781118. \$16.99. 307 p.

Reviewer: Larysa Bordner

Reading Level: Young adult

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Detective and mystery stories; Humorous stories;

Subject: Mystery and detective stories--Juvenile fiction; Murder--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Trouble has a way of finding Jasmine Callihan (Jas) despite how hard she tries to be the model daughter that she knows her father expects her to be. Jas is living with her father and step-mother in Venice, Italy, and although she is bored and lonely without her best friends, she tries to be obedient and patient in hopes of being rewarded with a trip back home to California. Instead of a vacation, however, Jas finds a mystery. It begins when one day in Italian class when her friend Arabella comes to her terrified. Arabella is convinced that someone is trying to kill her. Jas rushes into action to find out what the story is behind Arabella's fear—and discovers more than she thought she was in for along the way: murder, weird gadgets, a squirrel suit, and more interrelated mysteries.

Kitty Kitty is a hilarious novel with a Nancy Drew feel—a teenage girl working to solve a mystery with the help of a few seemingly random clues and her good friends. The funny and original personalities of the characters are enchanting, as is the story. The book has a unique feel to it because the characters thoughts and side-conversations are worked into the story to give more information about what is happening. An ideal book for anyone who enjoys clever humor and a fascinating mystery.

Volume 29, no. 1 (September/October 2008)

Stern, Sam. *Sam Stern's Real Food Real Fast*. Illustrated by Sam Stern. Candlewick Press, 2008. ISBN 9780763635336. \$16.99. 128 p.

Reviewer: Gabi Kupitz

Reading Level: Young Adult

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Cookbooks

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

Sam Stern is a British teenager who wants to convert friends from fast-food junkies to quick and healthy cooks and eaters. Delicious recipes, full-color photographs, an index, tabs for 5 minute to 30 minute meal suggestions, and clear instructions serve up a cookbook that will be used. Stern also includes vegetarian suggestions. U.S. measurements and every-day ingredients make meal preparation a snap.

Volume 29, no.1 (September/October 2008)

Lehman, Barbara. *Trainstop*. Illustrated by Barbara Lehman. Houghton Mifflin, 2008. ISBN 9780618756407. \$16.00. 32 p.

Reviewer: Kate Reynolds

Reading Level: All

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Picture books;

Subject: Stories without words--Juvenile fiction; Railroads--Juvenile fiction; Helping behavior--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Lehman has once again produced a delightful and imaginative wordless picture book; this one stars a young girl who disembarks from her train and steps into a Lilliputian land where she helps some stranded folk. Returning to the train, she leaves the colorful countryside to return to the drab city with her parents. But her adventure is not over yet, when she arrives home, she gets a surprise visit from her new wee friends.

The illustrations are bold with thick, heavy outlines, and the story unfolds in successive frames--some small, others whole page or two-page spreads. *Trainstop* is a worthy addition to Lehman's previous works with more leeway for the imagination than *Rainstorm* (Houghton Mifflin, 2007). This book is somewhat whimsical in plot, but solid in entertainment. *Trainstop* is a particularly good choice for a classroom collection for young children to inspire oral or written storytelling; it would work well along side Wiesner's *Sector 7* (Clarion, 1999) as a look at how imagination can transform the mundane into an adventure.

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