Book Reviews

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* All PB Reviewed by Robert L. Maxwell

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first publication of Baum’s classic tale *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz,* Sabuda has prepared this amazing book. The advertising blurb calls it resplendent, and this is no publisher’s hype. Sabuda, perhaps best known as a popup book artist for his beautiful *Christmas Alphabet,* has created here a masterpiece of book mechanics. The book has seven openings, each with elaborate popups. Within each opening, three to twelve subpages containing the text of the story also open up, and each one of these also contains popups. Done in woodcut style, Sabuda’s illustrations are reminiscent of the original Denslow pictures. They are fresh and new, but the real star of the book is the action.

Within the first opening a whirling tornado pops out at the reader, complete with flying cows and tractors. This opening contains a supplemental, two-page opening in which Dorothy and Toto bounce around on her bed as the house goes spinning on its way to Oz. The house duly lands on the Wicked Witch of the West in the next opening; later the Emerald City itself springs up. Those who have read the original text will remember that The Great Oz appears in several different forms to the four companions, and these all arise out of supplemental pages within this opening. Readers of the original will also remember that unlike the movie version, in the book everyone who goes into Oz must wear green-tinted glasses. Readers of the Sabuda popup are given a pair of spectacles to wear when viewing this opening, which not only transform the city to glistening splendor, but also allow the reader to view a hidden text in the flower beds. The Wicked Witch of the West is delightfully cranky in the next opening, portrayed in Halloween colors, and, at the appropriate point, she melts. On the next page a spinning, metallic gold and green balloon flies out, much to the surprise of both the reader and, evidently, to the four heroes, who stand in amazement as the wizard is whisked off. The final opening finds Dorothy in the country of the Quadlings (whose necks stretch in and out) meeting Glinda the Good Witch and, at last, returning home.

Clearly in a book of this sort the illustrations are more important than the words, but the text appears to be a fairly faithful, if heavily abridged, version of the original. However, even though it is shortened, a surprising amount of text has been retained for a medium not known for lengthy written passages. (This book was test-driven on my five- and three-year-olds, and it retained their interest even through the long narrative parts.) It includes many episodes that will interest those who know the story only from the movie, and it may inspire some to discover more by reading the original.

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A 5+ FI Reviewed by Gabi Kupitz

Spunky Ramona Louise (Mony) faces a tragic year. Her mother dies in a sudden tornado; her father is killed in a tragic accident on the family farm; the love of Georgie, her half-sister, is off to war; a woman in town is determined to adopt baby sister Keely Faye; Georgie mortgages the farm to establish a dress-making business in town, and the bank is threatening to recall the loan. What else can possibly go wrong? When Mony learns from her friend, Dr. Fellowes, that her beloved older sister is not who everyone in town—including Mony—thinks she is, Mony is almost ready to
explore. Eventually, the two sisters must unburden their loads of care. Mony discovers that money does not guarantee happiness. True happiness lies in family and one’s place in that unit—however it came together.

This first novel by Utah author, Brady, set in the U.S. South in 1944, explores the Jim Crow laws and is a powerful statement on family solidarity and the legacy of those who have gone before.

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A Pre-3 BI PB Reviewed by Carla Morris

“My story is both strange and true,” recounts Squanto in Bruchac’s latest book. Of Native American/New England descent, Bruchac was committed to accurately portraying Squanto and the everyday life of the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag people of the 1600s.

Shed’s gouache illustrations glow with warm blends of Thanksgiving colors—browns, golds, oranges, and yellows. It is nice to know that the beauty of the illustrations is supported by accuracy. *Squanto* is definitely one to buy for next Thanksgiving or a biography collection.

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B- 5-7 FI Reviewed by Sarah Olson

This disconcerting fantasy novel centers on Emma, the oldest daughter of a beekeeper and an environmental artist, who struggles to understand her place in her family and her Canadian community. She feels almost maternally protective of her mysteriously and perpetually ill younger sister. Although she and her parents openly love each other, they often find reason to argue. When summer comes and Emma’s mother agrees to let Emma work for a new neighbor, Emma’s world turns upside down. She begins to dream and finds herself—and her family—a central part of an actual, interworld game that threatens the life of her beloved “sister.” (It turns out her sister is actually not her sister but is the queen of an island world. She is dying because she has been away from her kingdom too long.)

What begins as an insightful and engaging depiction of a loving, but slightly dysfunctional, family ends as a mind-stretching, world-twisting, imagination-paining fantasy. I like Emma, I like her family, and I even like her strange friend/schoolmate/owl named Tom. Buffie creates characters and scenes that work well. But in the end, I put down the book feeling disturbed, wishing Buffie had stayed with the family realism instead of wandering into misty, far-fetched, and undersupported territory. I am confident with Buffie’s evident language ability, a more realistic fantasy would have left me cheering rather than feeling irked and upside down.

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B 2-4 FI Reviewed by Laura Wadley

Ten-year-old Sam is spending the summer with his Uncle Clem, who just bought a diner in the Nevada desert. The Lonesome Cafe gets few visitors, but the ones who come are strange. Some stay on as employees—a short-order cook who might be Bigfoot; a bakery delivery boy who could be Elvis; and a rotund, bewhiskered gentleman in a red and green rig who’s come South on vacation during the slow season. The most frequent visitors to the Lonesome Cafe are the members of the Channel 54 News team, who always “smell” a story, but can’t quite figure out what the story is.

Cox’s charming book gives children the delicious pleasure of knowing much more about what is happening in the story than the characters do. The repetitive arrival of the clueless Channel 54 News crew is also good for a recurring laugh.

https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol21/iss4/5
Farmer Brown can't believe his ears—cows that type! These cows not only type, but they also demand electric blankets to keep them warm on cold nights. The chickens get involved, and the cows type a note for them, also asking for blankets. Duck, a neutral party, carries on the negotiations between the farmer and his cows and chickens. Finally, the cows decide to give up the typewriter for the blankets. Duck carries the note and is to bring back the typewriter after the delivery of the blanket, but the typewriter never shows up. The ducks are demanding a diving board!

The repetition and humorous ending make *Click, Clack, Moo* a fun read at story time.

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Inspector Hopper (a grasshopper) and his ever-hungry sidekick, McBugg, solve three problems in three stories in this "I Can Read Book."

The first case involves Mrs. Ladybug, who was last seen eating lunch where only a blue mess remains. The search for her is unsuccessful until McBugg is finally allowed to alleviate his hunger by eating blueberries, with which he makes a suspicious looking blue mess. This leads them to Mrs. Ladybug, whom they find lying on her back nearby, having consumed too many blueberries.

Next, Skeet's boat has disappeared. Skeet (a mosquito) confirms that the picture of the boat he shows them not only looks like a leaf, it is a leaf. After questioning Eensy Weensy (a spider) and Sally (a snail), who had jogged three feet that morning, Conrad (a caterpillar) confesses to having eaten Skeet's boat. Inspector Hopper suggests a new, less-tasty boat, and McBugg wonders what a boat tastes like.

Finally, the two detectives catch the moon following them and explain that if the moon wants to be a good sleuth, it must be more subtle. A cloud covers the moon. Because he cannot see where he is going without the moonlight, a rat stealing seeds is caught in a web and arrested. The moon is then applauded as a very clever detective.

A nine-year-old girl read aloud this book easily, with the proper inflections, and chuckled in the right places. The cartoon characters are colorful and interesting, but the simple text, gentle wit, and charm of characters make this book a success.
of the kinds of people who may have been living in Vienna at the time.

A special note: Dahlberg makes frequent and direct references to the cannon of classical piano music. Readers who aren't familiar with the composers Chopin, Scarlatti, or Mendelssohn may feel left out; on the other hand, it is a good chance to introduce these same people to these musical masters.

If you are looking for a perspective on the global situation early in World War II that differs from either the valuable, yet prevalent, descriptions of Jewish persecutions or the glowing American home front, this book is for you.


* K-2 PB Reviewed by Carla Morris

Crispin is a spoiled rotten pig. He has everything. All his toys seem to be the sort he can play with by himself. Eventually, he gets bored with all his expensive toys, and they end up being broken by Easter-time.

One particular Christmas morning, Crispin finds an enormous box. He can hardly wait to see what's inside. It turns out to be just a big, empty box. “What's the matter, Crispin dear?” cooed his mother. “Weren't you a good pig this year?” grunts his dad.

It turns out to be the kind of box that needs imagination and friends to play store, pirates, castle, and space base. Dewan captures every emotion possible on the faces of Crispin, his parents, and his pig playmates. There are lots of fun details, like Crispin’s potato chips, “Piggles.”


A Pre-3 PB Reviewed by Nancy Alder

A supermarket moving in nearby threatens Grandpa’s neighborhood market, once one of many little shops that formed the hub of the community. What can he do but sell out? Lucy, his little granddaughter, knows the neighborhood needs Grandpa’s personal touch. She organizes the customers to convince Grandpa to stay.

This slice of life is all too often seen these days: comfy corner shops nudged out by mega stores. DiSalvo-Ryan does a nice job of presenting the personalities of this cultural cross-section. She shows what some organization and spirit can do to change things—or to keep them the same. There are some nice touches with the illustrations, and I enjoy the end papers. Kids will want to draw their own neighborhood map, like the one Lucy has done. A nice empowerment tale.


A 9-12 FI Reviewed by Rachel Wadham

On one typical evening, thirteen-year-old Robert is daydreaming in front of the television when he rubs his eyes and finds himself in the documentary he was watching. From this moment on, Robert is pulled through time and space as he continually falls into movies and pictures he sees. From Siberia in 1956 to the opal mines of postwar Australia, and finally to Amsterdam in 1621, Robert is transported through tranquil and war-torn moments in history. After all his travels, however, the one place Robert wants to be is home. It isn’t until he is apprenticed to a painter that Robert finally finds the answer.

This translated edition of Enzensberger’s German work Wo Warst Du, Robert? is an
outstanding and innovative time-travel tale. Readers will not find any famous historical characters here, but the heroes and villains they do meet are endearing and provide them with a finely detailed look at parts of world history. Just like Enzensberger’s previously translated work for children *The Number Devil, Lost in Time* is fast-paced and witty. With all the romance, intrigue, and adventure this tale provides, readers are likely to forget that they are learning something about their world.


Olivia is a child pig with lots of energy. She is good at wearing people out, and also good at wearing herself out. Falconer’s *Olivia* will remind you of most busy four- or five-year-olds who are interested in everything and in trying out all things.

Olivia loves to sing loud songs, try on all her outfits every day, and build fantastic sandcastles reminiscent of the Empire State Building. Although she dutifully combs her ears, brushes her teeth and takes Edwin the cat out every day, she hates taking her nap. She is not tired.

She loves to visit the museum and dream about being a “Degas Ballet Dancer.” Trying her mother’s patience, she attempts to recreate a Pollock painting in her bedroom. After “timeout,” a bath and dinner, Olivia is ready for bedtime stories.

“You know, you really wear me out, but I love you anyway,” says her mother.

Olivia says, “I love you anyway, too.”

A wonderful book on the zeal of a small child and a patient, long-suffering mother, this book is also full of culture, such as Degas and Pollock paintings, as well as the biography of opera singer Maria Callas. One can tell that this touch of culture can only come from a talented author/illustrator such as Falconer.

Falconer has illustrated for *The New Yorker* magazine. We hope to see more of *Olivia* from this first-time children’s writer.


Missing “Vocabulary Day” because of a cold becomes a disaster, an embarrassment, and eventually a triumph for fifth-grader Sage. On Monday, Sage catches a cold and stays home from school on Tuesday. She calls her friend Starr for the vocabulary words. Starr hurriedly lists and spells them, all but the last word. Sniffing and sneezing, Sage manages a creative spelling of her own and, to compound the problem, produces her own original definition. During Monday’s vocabulary bee, Sage is asked to spell and define the word: “Capital M-I-S-S Capital A-L-A-I-N-E-U-S,” and adds, “The lady on green spaghetti boxes whose hair is the color of uncooked pasta and turns into spaghetti at the ends.” When Sage realizes her mistake she is devastated and embarrassed. When she tells her mom the story, her mom comments, “There is gold in every mistake.” Together, they turn the mistake into something positive. Sage wins the annual Vocabulary Parade with her costume,
10 Brigham Young University

“Miss Alaineus, Queen of All Miscellaneous Things.”

Frasier’s illustrations, in primary colors, are simple. She used materials found in her daughter’s desk, notebook paper, pencils, and markers. The pages are effectively bordered in contrasting colors, with sentences using words from A to Z that run along the bottom and sides. They communicate Sage’s emotions as the plot unfolds. An addendum, “Sage’s Vocabulary Parade Scrapbook,” shows Sage’s costumes from Kindergarten and invites readers to initiate their own Vocabulary Parade. A list at Frasier’s website, www.frasierbooks.com, lists further ideas for the parade.

Miss Alaineus is a hilarious, yet touching, story that demonstrates a love of language and words. It also shows how everyone can learn from mistakes, even in the most mortifying situations. Frasier strikes the right balance with this little bit of reality from everyone’s school days.

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A 9-12 FI Reviewed by Lanell Rabner

As if life isn’t bad enough living in a house surrounded by women, now Aunt Frieda, who must be at least one hundred years old, is coming to visit. Fifteen-year-old Ben, certainly not a ladies’ man and not quite a jock, can’t seem to find where he fits in. Born to dance, Ben gives up his one true passion when his high school peers catch wind of “his dirty little secret” and dub him Ballerina Boy. Unable to communicate with his overworked mother or three overbearing, obnoxious older sisters, Ben turns to Aunt Frieda to help him make sense of his life. Ben is drawn to the old woman, who has a face that tells a story he’s not so sure he wants to hear. As she talks to him about his father, dead for ten years, Ben wants to hear more. As his confidence in her increases, Aunt Frieda begins to share with him her life in Stalin’s Russia, when the “men with no faces, no eyes, no expressions at all” took her young husband off to prison in the middle of the night.

A powerful story of learning to get beyond the grief, anger, and hatred caused by life’s injustice by choosing to define who we will become. Ben learns that when you stop hating, you set yourself free. Friesen’s strong characters speak to the heart, saying it’s okay to be afraid; it’s okay to be different. Yet each one of us must learn to conquer the “men of stone” we face in our own lives, so we can become who we will.

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A Pre-1 PB Reviewed by Sandra L. Tidwell

If you go down to the woods today
You’re sure of a big surprise . . .
Today’s the day the teddy bears
Have their picnic.

Whatley has illustrated this traditional children’s song with fuzzy, cuddly teddy bears of all colors, shapes, and sizes. After I read the book to my grandchildren the first time, I went through the book next time singing the text. They loved it! Singing it through the second time was a given the next time we sat down for story time. The children recognized “Pooh” bear, his nose in a honey pot, and laughed at the bears with pig-nose masks on. Another fun illustration is the teddy bear band playing guitars, banjos, and drums. This publication is in paperback format. Use it to link story time and music time in the home or preschool setting. The large text makes this book a potential early reader selection.

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* 4-6 BI PB Reviewed by AnnMarie Hamar

Yvette Glover believes her son Savion was born to dance. She was working as a judge’s assistant when she was expecting him and has
said, "When I would type, and the carriage would automatically return, he'd walk, he'd follow it, in my stomach. You could see him move" (p. 39). Savion Glover rose to fame at the age of eleven when he appeared on Broadway in *The Tap Dance Kid*. He is best known for his Tony Award-winning musical *Bring in 'da Noise, Bring in 'da Funk*, which he choreographed, and for his role as a dance teacher on *Sesame Street*.

*New York Times* cultural correspondent Weber writes about Glover's early life (he and his brothers were raised by a single mother) and his training as a dancer. Weber also includes a history of tap dance, referring to such greats as Charles "Honi" Coles, Bunny Briggs, and Jimmy Slyde, all of whom influenced Glover. Alternating with the chapters written by Weber are those written by Glover, who tells the reader how he creates steps, how he choreographs, how rhythm influences his work, and what he has learned from his master teachers.

This biography is refreshing and interesting because Glover comes across as likeable, hard-working, and passionate about his art form. The book includes more than fifty black-and-white photographs of Glover at various stages of his career—teaching dance classes, rehearsing and performing. Many of the photographs capture Glover's love of dance. The text itself alternates between read and black on a white background to white on red or red on black. This arrangement is not as hard on the readers' eyes as one might think and, when combined with the photographs, somehow manages to capture the energy of tap dance. Those readers who enjoy dance, musical theatre, or both will enjoy this book about an extraordinary man who is a positive role model.


B 8-12 FI Reviewed by Emily M. Jones

Following the death of her husband and child, fifteen-year-old Lady Edith leaves England in the year 1144 on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Pursued by her fear of being forced to marry the loathsome Sir Runcival and haunted by memories of past tragedy, her physical journey to Jerusalem becomes a symbol of an equally treacherous internal journey.

Heavily researched, this novel may prove valuable to a classroom/library collection by filling a noticeable gap in the literature available for this particular time period. References to the historical figures, cultures, and landmarks along the journey are skillfully handled. Much of the period vocabulary, however, will prove challenging for even the most astute adult reader; the author would have done well to include a glossary of unfamiliar terms used. From the beginning, the novel alludes to what is presumed will be a dramatic and satisfying ending. Somewhat "jerky" in plot pacing, the story comes to a frustrating conclusion as the resolution proves surprisingly shallow and anti-climatic. This book is a unique addition to a historical fiction collection, but more than likely not a page-turner for the average teen reader.


A 5+ FI Reviewed by Laura Wadley

The one-room school in a small Athabascan village sees a succession of teachers come and go, overcome by the cold, the smell, and the loneliness. When Miss Agnes arrives, no one expects her to stay either, but she does. She teaches the children reading, writing, arithmetic, opera, geography, and sign language as they have never been taught before.

Hill wrote this novel in homage to Sylvia Ashton Warner and all other remarkable teachers. *The Year of Miss Agnes* is well told, with evocative descriptions of Alaskan bush life and of the Athabascan people. Better-suited for an adult audience, who will have a greater appreciation for the beauties of landscape and personality in this volume than the children for whom it was written, *The Year of Miss Agnes* might still serve as a good read-aloud and discussion book.
The animals cannot see in the darkness, so they ask the sun if he will shine on them at night as well as in the day. Though the sun cannot do this, he solves the problem by sending a crescent moon for light at night. The animals express their joy and thanks to the sun, but ask that the moon be made bigger. As the moon continues to grow larger each night, the animals forget to give thanks, and soon the moon disappears. Recognizing their ingratitude, the animals sadly apologize to the sun, who returns the moon to light the night and to wax and wane forever as a symbol of this story.

The pictures, made of torn paper, are delightful. Children, who, from their own artistic efforts, understand the skill needed here, will be impressed with the lifelike, exuberant, and delicate charm on each page. The story line and text have the right drama and tension for a pleasing preschool lap-reader. The preschooler I read this to responded with alarm to the “red” of the angry sun, but noted that the sun looked sad rather than angry. This might be a translation problem and was the only flaw we found. However, even the perceived error shows the interest the picture and story combination made on a small child.

The Log Cabin Christmas

It is a dismal Christmas Eve for three motherless children in the woods of Michigan. No one has taken responsibility for Christmas. Pap and Granny are in bad humor, and it is too cold to do anything. The youngest sibling, Elvirey, thinks back to Carolina when Mom was still alive and how she made Christmas such a special event. Discouraged, but determined, Elvirey sets out to fetch some greenery from the pine forest, hoping to capture a bit of her mother’s Christmas preparation routine. Although Granny scoffs at the greenery, Elvirey is undaunted. With her mother’s memory floating in her head, she tucks some of the pine boughs on the fireplace mantel and puts the smaller sprigs into her mother’s china jar. Elvirey’s one little act of Christmas preparation suddenly, but quietly, spurs Granny to bake a shoofly pie; Sis searches for and finds some red scraps in the quilt sack to accent the pine garland lining the mantel; Bub fetches some candles, and father hauls in a tub of snow to be melted for bathing. When the day is done, not only is the Christmas spirit in the home, but so is the memory of a mother, who, in her yearly preparations, instilled in her family a desire to celebrate Christmas—even in her physical absence.

Beautiful watercolor and gouache paintings lend a depth to this story that tugs at heartstrings, because Christmas in this little cabin is not about commercialism. Christmas for this grieving family is all about love and celebrating the birth of the Savior of the world.

Toothworms and Spider Juice: An Illustrated History of Dentistry

An entertaining, educational history of dentistry with its myriad folklore and medical inventions, this book documents facts gathered from as long ago as ancient Egypt from teeth preserved in skeletons (it seems that teeth outlast other skeletal remains because of their enamel, or what remains of it). These grisly artifacts allow researchers to determine the eating habits, ancient remedies used to combat decay, and other remedies used to treat vanished teeth and disintegrated jaws.
The toothworm (as mentioned in the title) was believed the culprit of the extreme pain of decaying teeth clear into the 1700s, and the cures for it were endlessly imaginative, though only accidentally effective. In 4000 B.C. Hindus were already using toothbrushes, made from twigs, and a baby’s first teeth held great prophetic significance. Even cosmetic adjustments for the teeth were in use very early in mankind’s history.

Toothworms & Spider Juice is liberally illustrated with historic materials and contains a complete index and a substantial bibliography. It will leave the young reader wiser, and possibly even more grateful, for x-rays, deadening, and orthodontic expertise.


A 9-12 FI Reviewed by Janet O. Francis

The lot of a physically challenged girl is not an easy one in the 1800s. Josephine’s challenge is her size—twenty-two inches tall at full growth. Her solutions, stemming from her courage, quick wit, and brass, are anything but small. Although she does find friendship in her hard circumstances, more frequently she meets with graspers seeking to make a fast fortune from her extraordinary size and intelligence. Her parents exhibit her to gawkers for a penny; she endures a bitter stint serving in a young ladies’ boarding school; and she has a successful run in a seaside museum of curiosities. Josephine is not a victim, but the inhumane social climate of the Victorian Age almost does her in before she learns how to strike first.

This is a fascinating picture of the life of a young woman who seems very real in a time not long ago. It will particularly appeal to girls, who will appreciate Josephine’s chutzpa.


A Pre-2 PB Reviewed by AnnMarie Hamar

One day Henry the bear and his friend decide to go to Fitchburg. Henry chooses to walk, while his friend prefers to work until he earns the fare for a train ticket. During his journey, Henry climbs a honey tree, swims in a pond, and eats his way through a blackberry patch. Meanwhile, his friend moves bookcases for Mr. Emerson, carries flour to the village baker, and paints the fence in front of the courthouse to earn the ninety cents for the train fare. Henry’s friend arrives in Fitchburg at sunset, just before Henry does. When he informs Henry that the train is the faster way to travel, Henry acknowledges this to be true, and then shares the blackberries he has picked along the way.

Johnson’s book is based on a passage from Henry David Thoreau’s *Walden*. The story explores how two friends can have different approaches to life and choose different methods of travel to get to the same place. Johnson includes subtle introductions to Thoreau’s friends Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Bronson Alcott. There is just enough text to tell the story. The very colorful illustrations are composed of geometric shapes; a few of them are too busy. At the end of the book Johnson includes notes and the passage from *Walden* on which the story is based. This clever and enjoyable story can be read on more than one level. It is also a well-crafted introduction to an important American figure.


A 6-9 FI Reviewed by Janet O. Francis

Roxana expects her life to go along at its even pace in their lovely home beside the Ohio River as the pain of her mother and brother’s death begins to fade. Her father, Judge Grey,
however, must travel north to Washington, D.C.
She must stay and mind the plantation, with the
help of the servants (not slaves in this family).
Before he leaves, her father reveals to her that
they are a slave station on the Underground
Railway, and she must assume this
responsibility.
Barely fourteen, Roxana is hardly through
her frightened farewells when it becomes
evident that her companion/servant/lifelong
friend Joss must run with her fiancé Gideon to
escape marauding slave-hunters. Their escape
can only be accomplished with Roxana’s help.
She masquerades as a spoiled young Southern
belle and they, her slaves, on a dangerous
voyage up the Ohio River to freedom.
There is enough excitement in this story to
make it good recreational reading, but the
underlying exploration of the love/hate
relationships in the impossible world of slavery
presents some food for thought and gives the
book more depth than many young adult novels.
This is not just another Civil War story.

Jones, Ivan and Mal Jones. Good Night, Sleep


Kellogg has freshened his Mystery of the
Missing Red Mitten, first published in 1974,
with this new version. The soft colors of yellow
and orange found in the sunsets make this newer
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* All PB Reviewed by Vicky M. Turner

“In the bare, bones beginning,” Armadillo’s
ears were as tall as jackrabbit’s and as wide as a
steer’s horns, but he was slow, awkward, and
never got to the water until the other animals had
already muddied it. He loved listening to the
other animals talk and always ran to someone
with not-quite-true tales of what was being said.
One day Alligator was so angry about a tale
Armadillo told that she “nipped and snapped and clipped Armadillo’s ears until there was nothing left but tiny, teeny, itsy weenie little ears.” On that day, Armadillo also learned that now he was so fast, none of the other animals could reach the cool, clean water ahead of him.

It gets a bit savage when Alligator is nipping at Annadillo’s ears, but otherwise this is a wonderful tale of what happens to people who snoop and tell.

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A Pre-1 PB Reviewed by Susie Quartey

Kirk succeeds once again in captivating his readers with skillful text, wonderful rhymes, and exceptional illustrations. All my grade school children loved it. Younger children will also enjoy this tale of beginning school and will relate to Little Miss Spider’s emotions.

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* 3-6 BI Reviewed by AnnMarie Hamar

Krull’s book examines the lives of twenty of the most influential women in history, from Cleopatra to Nobel Peace Prize-winner Rigoberta Menchú. She writes about women from various periods in history and from different countries, pointing out what makes them so important. Some of them, such as Elizabeth I of England and Eleanor of Aquitaine (who married Henry II of England), were well educated and powerful at a time when society considered it wrong. Others, like Harriet Tubman, Rigoberta Menchú, and Burmese revolutionary leader Aung San Suu Kyi, are known for their courage and determination to make life better for their people. Still others, like West African queen Nzingha and Queen Isabella of Spain, proved that they could be as ruthless as any male ruler when they felt it was the only way to succeed. The author’s list also includes Catherine the Great of Russia, Golda Meir, Eleanor Roosevelt, Wilma Mankiller, and Queen Victoria.

Each biography is three to five pages long and is full of information. A section called “Ever After” follows each one and includes interesting trivia about each woman. While several of her subjects are hardly examples of good behavior, Krull presents a well-balanced picture of each, pointing out that some women, like Eva Perón and Empress T’zu-his of China, did many good things, even though their historical legacies tend to be negative. She does not avoid writing about Harriet Tubman’s cruel treatment as a slave, Marie Antoinette’s execution, and Indira Gandhi’s assassination. The illustrations by Hewitt are caricatures done in watercolor and colored pencil. Each includes details intended to help identify each woman; for example, Joan of Arc wears a suit of armor and Jeannette Rankin, the first woman elected to the U.S. Congress, wears a hat in the shape of the Capitol building. This book is another in the “Lives of . . .” series by Krull and Hewitt. It is well-written, fascinating, and a joy to read.

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A 2-4 PB Reviewed by Sharon Kuttler

The once-beautiful Medusa is changed into a hideous snake-headed gorgon by the jealous goddess Athena. Medusa hides in a cave, but everyone who looks upon her is turned to stone. Perseus, the mortal son of Zeus and Danae, is ordered to slay Medusa by the ruler Polydectes. If he doesn’t, he and his mother will be slain. Perseus, armed with Athena’s shield and Hermes’ flying sandals and sword, sets out to find Medusa. He uses the shiny shield to find the sleeping Gorgon’s reflection. Medusa awakens.
but Perseus beheads her with his magic sword and places the writhing head into a leather pouch. Perseus flies to the palace of Polydectes and presents him with the head after first warning his mother to avert her gaze. Polydectes and his soldiers are turned to stone.

Lattimore retells the story of Medusa and Perseus in an exciting and accurate manner. Enough background is given to motivate, but not encumber, the myth. The bold, stylized illustrations are well adapted to this mysterious and adventurous story. Although in picture-book format, this myth is too frightening and intense for most children from preschool to first grade. Lattimore has created many other picture books retelling ancient myths and tales, including *The Prince and the Golden Ax*, *The Winged Cat*, and *Arabian Nights*.


* 5+ FI Reviewed by Sandra L. Tidwell

Marcus, through his fifth grade teacher Miss Hazel, is gaining an understanding of the real needs of the Dinkas in Sudan, who have been captured and forced into slavery. Through chapters alternating between Marcus and the true stories of Sudanese slaves, readers learn that Marcus, son of a single-parent family, isn’t completely “free,” either. He lives with his sister, who hangs out with hoodlums who go to the mall and shoplift, and his mother, who comes home so tired from work that she has no time to talk with her son or help him with his homework. Marcus is impressed with a picture and motto of Mother Teresa’s displayed in his classroom: “Do small things with great love.”

When he and his classmates decide to recycle newspapers to earn money to free as many slaves as they can, Marcus sacrifices many hours to gather stacks of old newspapers without telling his mother.

When Alier, a Sudanese boy, has the chance to go to a big city and get a better education, his Uncle warns him, “They will change you. The question is only this: What part of you can they change and what thoughts in your heart are unchanging forever. This is the question every man must answer for himself.” The slave traders attempted to make the slaves forget who they were and the freedom they experienced before being captured. The slaves dreamed of freedom, however, because they remembered and contrasted it to their present situation. They wouldn’t let go of the hope of returning to freedom.

This book is based on the true story of how a fifth grade class in Denver, Colorado, became aware of the terrible slavery situation in Sudan and waged a program to help free slaves. Reading this book will make you aware of the ethnic wars and cruelty which plague many nations in the world today. It affected me deeply. *Dream Freedom* emphasizes that everyone has problems that require courage and hope for the future to overcome. It also teaches that everyone can do something, however small, to help solve problems, and problems can be solved through a foundation of caring attitudes and careful planning.

The author’s foreword and afterword tell about the S.T.O.P (Slavery That Oppresses People) abolitionist campaign and information about what you can do to help bring freedom back to these and other enslaved people. The bibliography includes additional resources, including web sites and videos.


B Pre-1 PB Reviewed by Sandra L. Tidwell

You get three books in one with *One Lighthouse, One Moon*. Days of the week and basic colors are covered in the first section, “All Week Long.” The months of the year and counting from one to ten are covered in the next two sections, “Nini’s Year” and “One Lighthouse, One Moon.” Nini, a gray cat, appears at every page turn and is peeking out of the back inside cover illustration.

A preschooler who has a cat or loves cats would enjoy looking for Nini on the brightly
colored illustrations while learning these basic concepts. However, I wouldn’t rate this publication higher than other existing counting books or books that also go through the days of the week or months of the year.

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A 4-8 FI Reviewed by Sharon Kuttler

Lady Lynet’s castle and sister are under siege by the evil Knight of the Red Lands, who enthusiastically beheads all would-be rescuers. Lynet escapes her besieged castle and travels to Camelot to seek a gallant knight. The only volunteer willing to attempt to free her castle is a kitchen hand named Beaumains. Lynet, Beaumains, and an odd dwarf named Roger return to Lynet’s castle, encountering may humorous and challenging experiences along the way. Beaumains does defeat the evil knight and reveals himself as a knight of King Arthur’s court. Other hidden identities are revealed in this magical tale of adventure and romance.

Morris has taken the legendary Arthurian characters introduced to the world by Sir Thomas Mallory and given them depth, fallibility, and humor. The events of the story are well motivated, unlike original Arthurian tales. This is a fast-paced, clever, exciting read. The many battles and fights portray killing in a rather cavalier manner, but the violence is not overly gruesome.

Readers will want more of a similar fare, which they can find in Morris’ two other books, The Squire’s Tale and The Squire, His Knight, and His Lady. All three books are witty, engaging tales set in King Arthur’s time.

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A 3+ NF Reviewed by Nancy Alder

Talk about March coming in like a lion! New York City, lulled by a spat of unseasonably warm winter days, is unexpectedly clobbered by a massive snowstorm. With suspense and the human perspective, Murphy manages to teach about the historical event, meteorology, and the politics involved in public service without once sacrificing the tale. We read of those who rise to the occasion, neighbor helping neighbor, and those who succumb to the elements. We’re caught up in the worry and then the fear—the cold is palpable. We view the storm from a child’s point of view, elected officials’ perspectives, and through the eyes of adults who have and have not been through this before. Murphy knows how to tell a story!

Murphy does his usual reliable job in researching this event from 1888 New York. The many photographs and illustrations enhance the text, and the “ripped from the headlines” story carries you right along. The index, notes and bibliography make it a useful and polished offering, but the story is really the thing. Murphy has a knack for making the real-deal events he writes about accessible and engaging. This one is a keeper—just right for reading on a stormy winter night.

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A 4+ FI Reviewed by Vicky M. Turner

Adaline is her father’s name for her; Falling Star is what her mother calls her because she was born on the night of a meteor shower. Her mother, an Arapaho Indian, dies, and her father, Kit Carson, must take her to St. Louis to live with his cousin, Silas. Her father thinks she is going to continue her education, but Silas treats her like a slave and a mute. Life is hard for Adaline, but she endures because she knows that
one day her father will come back. Caddie, one of Silas’ slaves, befriends her and is the only one in the household who treats her with kindness. When it appears that her father has abandoned her, she takes off to find the life she knows best in the Colorado wilderness. Her only friend appears to be a mongrel dog that adopts her. This wonderful, fast-paced adventure accurately portrays life on the frontier in the 1840s. Adaline faces many of the challenges children face today—particularly children who have mixed ethnic backgrounds. Adaline is a strong female character who leads the reader through many adventures.

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**A 4-8 NF**

Reviewed by Sharon Kuttler

Earth’s beginnings, plate tectonics, mountain formation, volcanoes, the ice age, and the effects of water, wind, and living organisms on shaping the earth are presented with clear, concise explanations.

Beautiful photographs, particularly of mountains and valleys, make this book visually appealing. The currently accepted theories on the formation and history of the earth are explained in enough detail for this book to be useful in school research, yet it is interesting enough to read for pleasure. It is not a comprehensive geology book, but it covers well the geologic changes of the earth from its formation to its probable future. There is definitely an environmental message, including a warning about Earth’s overpopulation. An adequate glossary and index will aid the researcher, as will a list of further reading that includes web sites. Patent is the author of more than one hundred books for children and young adults. In 1987, she received the Eva L. Gordon Award for Children’s Science Literature for her books.

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**B Pre-3 PB**

Reviewed by Lanell Rabner

When the princess Miranda was born, the poor people of her country were too tired to rejoice in her birth. They worked hard in the fields, all day long, and at night most of them fell asleep the minute they lay down to rest. On the other hand, the rich people of the land were too selfish and lazy to rejoice over the king and queen’s good fortune. So Miranda’s royal parents decided to throw an enormous celebration to honor their new daughter and heir to their throne. When the appointed day arrived, all was in readiness. The footmen stood waiting at the great doors to the castle, but the knocker remained silent. No important guests arrived. No grand gifts were presented. The entire household waited and waited. After a time, growing weary of the wait, everyone closed their eyes and fell asleep. While the castle slept, Miranda’s fairy godmother arrived, finding Miranda to be the only creature in the entire household who was not asleep. The wrinkled old woman bent over the princess’s cradle, kissed the tip of a crooked finger and then gently touched each of the baby’s eyelids. “I’ll give you the gift of being wide awake all your waking hours. With that gift, you can enjoy all your other gifts. Without it, none of the rest matters,” she whispered and then vanished. When Miranda turns twelve, her parents suddenly die, and she is forced to go out among her people to learn how to become a queen.

An original fairy tale of how one very wide-awake princess overcomes her squabbling, greedy nobles by winning the hearts of the common people to become a wise and compassionate queen. Vagin’s pencil and watercolor illustrations, rich in color, detail, and medieval influence, are wasted on this underdeveloped tale. Paterson, typically a masterful storyteller, fails to adequately connect the princess’s gift of “being wide awake” with how she learned to become a good queen. Recommended, despite the weak story line, because it is a novel idea bolstered by magical illustrations.

**A Pre-1 PB** Reviewed by Sandra L. Tidwell

Baby cow, wondering why other animals don’t say “Moo” like he does, approaches each of his barnyard friends and demands, “Say, Moo! Say, Moo! I say Moo, why don’t you?” The owl helps cow see that the way animals communicate is just one way that makes each animal unique.

After one reading, my almost four-year-old grandchild had the repetitive phrases down so she could “read” the book the next time to her little brother. This is a dependable read-aloud story for families and preschools with children beginning to learn barnyard animal sounds. It could easily be used with the traditional folk song “Old McDonald Had a Farm.” Lamut’s brightly colored illustrations of the animals are cartoonlike, but realistic.


**A 7-12 FI** Reviewed by Rachel Wadham

In this fictional journal, fourteen-year-old Georgia Nicolson recounts the crucial, and sometimes embarrassing, events of one year of her life. From dealing with bras and pondering how one should turn one’s head when kissing to trying to impress “Mr. Gorgeous” when he only seems to see you at awkward moments, Georgia grapples with many issues facing teen girls.

Originally published in England by Piccadilly Press, this hilarious tale of a teenager’s life will not be bound by countries’ borders. Rennison, a British comedy writer, deals honestly with a variety of teen concerns, including dealing with one’s parents and siblings, sexuality, and finding true love. A glossary in the back is helpful in navigating the British tone and vocabulary of the book. While the frank, and oftentimes outrageous, descriptions of life and love may be offensive to some, this realistic and funny slice of a life story is a superior read.


**A 6+ FI** Reviewed by Sandra L. Tidwell

While traveling on the Sante Fe Trail from Independence, Missouri, to Colorado, Lizzie Enders’s mother dies. Also traveling with the Ender family is Elinora, a niece of the Bishop of the Sante Fe Mission. Elinora is selfish, manipulative, and haughty. Lizzie thinks that once they deliver Elinora to the Sister of Loretto School, she and her father can go on to Colorado and somehow piece together their lives. However, Lizzie’s father leaves Lizzie, who is a Methodist, behind without saying good-bye. Lizzie is angry and lonely and needs love and friendship. She finds friendship in Mrs. Lacey, a sickly lady who lives at the convent, Roberta, one of the nuns, Jose, a wandering carpenter, and Bishop Lamy. Lizzie’s strong personality pulls her through many difficult circumstances and helps her reconcile her Methodist upbringing with the strong Catholic tradition of the convent.

*The Staircase* centers around the miraculous account of how a staircase to the choir loft was built in the Chapel of Loretto in Sante Fe. The plot is intriguing and includes the real Wild West character Jesse James and a wife-beating villain. Rinaldi named the bishop of the convent school Bishop Lamy after the character of the same name in Willa Cather’s *Death Comes For the Archbishop.* The story is told from Lizzie’s point of view, and, through this introspective writing style, the reader gets to know Lizzie’s thoughts and emotions about the other characters. Rinaldi so successfully portrayed Elinora as a selfish, cruel youngster, that her sudden transformation to Lizzie’s caring friend was too abrupt for me. Through the character Jose, the reader also gains some “gems” to
ponder after reading the book, such as "There is only one magic... the goodness of the heart."


A 4+ FI Reviewed by Gabi Kupitz

In 1924 Mexico, Esperanza is the pampered only child of a wealthy landowner. After bandits kill her father, Esperanza's mother makes the difficult decision to flee Mexico and her upcoming marriage to her slain husband's corrupt stepbrother. Mother and daughter enter the United States with their former servants, Alfonso, his wife, Hortensia, and their son, Miguel. Without language skills, money, and few belongings on their backs, the newcomers are reduced to agricultural work in the fields of California's Joaquin Valley and sharing substandard housing. As social class opposites in their former life, Esperanza and Miguel are more equal than not in the United States. When Mama becomes very ill, it is up to Esperanza to work in the fields. Paying medical bills out of her meager earnings and trying to save what she can in the hope of bringing her beloved Abuelita, Mama's mother, to California, test Esperanza's resolve to remain hopeful.

The novel is based on the life of the author's grandmother and is a revelation. When one picks up vegetables and fruits in the local grocery store, does one think about the hands that have planted, tended, picked, and sorted the produce? *Joyride* by Gretchen Olson would be a great companion novel in learning about some of the Mexican Americans living among us.


A Pre-3 PB NF Reviewed by Janet Francis

This book pictures the essence of autumn and winter nature from a single mouse in a snowy field to the cats piled together for warmth in the barn to the graceful, lacy trees stretching their bare limbs into the blue sky. Rylant informs us that food tastes better in the winter and has a different smell. People are good to each other, she remarks, and carry pies and visit. She gives a factual, observant picture of Thanksgiving activity.

This poetic portrayal of the fireplace month of the year is simple enough for a perfect read-aloud but not simple-minded. It touches the memory and connects observations with it. Children will know November even if they are not lucky enough to see it. Kastner's tactile illustrations give the words undeniable life.


A Pre-3 PB Reviewed by Nancy Alder

Yet another Cinderella story, but this one's a dandy. San Souci always weaves a good tale, and this is one of his best. Our Cinderella, foulest in the land, yearns to attend the Halloween Ball in hopes of meeting her ghoul charming. Rushing through her chores—so many cobwebs to hang, so many bats to feed—Cinderella goes off in search of a kindly witch (fairy godmothers avoid her neighborhood, it seems) and is soon decked out in a mildew green sateen dress, and off she goes in pumpkin-turned-hearse to the ball! The stroke of dawn is her deadline to return home; as she runs off, the Prince grabs not just her slipper, but her foot as well, leaving her to stump off into the darkness. While all the eligible skeleton girls willingly snap off their feet to win the Prince's heart, only our Cinderella has the anklebone to fit the bony foot he carries.

Told in rhyme and enlivened with ghastly illustrations, this is a clever departure from the usual Cinderella tale. It's not just for Halloween, either.

* 8-12 FI Reviewed by Emily M. Jones

From the beginning pages of *Stargirl*, a very "ordinary" high school in Mica, Arizona, is bowled over by an extraordinary student. Even Spinelli seems pressed to put this "Stargirl" into words:

She laughed where there was no joke. She danced when there was no music. She had no friends, yet she was the friendliest person in school. In her answers in class, she often spoke of sea horses and stars, but she did not know what a football was. In our minds we tried to pin her to a corkboard like a butterfly, but the pin merely went through and she flew away.

The story is told from the perspective of Leo Borlock, a student at Mica High whose fascination with Stargirl turns to all-out first love. When the student body's short-lived adulation for Stargirl turns to cruel meanness and even worse, shunning, Leo pleads with her to be more "normal."

Faintly reminiscent of his mythical-but-not-mythical main character in the Newbery Award-winning *Maniac Magee*, *Stargirl* is a fascinating blend of eccentricity and innocence that is sure to appeal to both genders.

Spinelli deftly explores the complexity of popularity, the intrigue of individuality, and the exhilaration of first love. *Stargirl* is brimming with discussion-catalysts for the classroom or home. We are introduced to a world of color and humankind that many of us have never before noticed and, at the same time, are invited to ask hard questions about who and what we really are. Highly recommended.

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A K-2 PB Reviewed by Sharon Kuttler

Mother Pig tells her two piglets a bedtime story. After the first, they beg for more, until they finally fall asleep after the fourth story. The stories are contained in small picture books bound to the larger book. Mother Pig reads her piglets *The Pig Prince, The Ugly Duckling, Piggerela*, and *The Prince and the Porker.*

This is a good read-aloud. The minibooks will enchant children, and the piggy-style retelling of familiar fairy tales will keep adults amused. The drawings are humorous, large and cartoonlike. This is the perfect bedtime book for young children who are prone to want "just one more story."

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A 4-6 FI Reviewed by Laura Wadley

Meg Moore is the only child of her widowed father, a well-off Restoration England bookseller, and therefore his heir. They both hope she will take over the business at his passing, until he remarries and his wife becomes pregnant. A male child will take Meg's inheritance and destroy her hopes for a predictable, fulfilling future.

Meg's struggles to reconcile herself to her stepmother and to the sudden uncertainties of her future are the burden of this fascinating historical novel. The place of women in Restoration society, and the essential dearth of opportunity for women in any station of life, will be astonishing to modern young readers. Sturtevant never wavers in the historical accuracy of her presentation, which is rich, engaging, and well written.

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* Pre-1 PB Reviewed by Sandra L. Tidwell

Bunny and Bird, a Tufted Titmouse, live in holes in the same old apple tree. Bunny wants to
be friends, but Bird is shy. After a rainstorm causes Bird's nest to become wet and she feels cold, Bird starts to cry. Bunny calls to Bird, and Bird accepts Bunny's invitation to sleep inside his cozy hole at the bottom of the tree. In the morning, Bunny, Squirrel, and Chipmunk help Bird repair her nest by bringing soft things. Bird finds she is overcoming her shyness and loves having lots of friends.

This book is perfect for preschool story time, because there are only a few words on every page but plenty to look at. Tafuri's large, realistic watercolor illustrations include a lot of detail for the main characters and a soft wash of color in the background. In almost every illustration, two little brown mice look on. This is a simple, but powerful story on developing friendship. Friends help each other and say "Thank You."

Turner, Megan Whalen. *The Queen of Attolia.*

* 5+ FI Reviewed by Lanell Rabner

Crawling through the narrow hidden passages of the Attolian palace, Eugenides frantically searches for a place to escape. Outside the palace, he's seen running along the edge of the parapet, when suddenly he plunges into the blackness of the courtyard below. Racing for his life, through the sewer, under the city wall, into the olive grove along the river's bank, the Queen's Thief is almost free when he slams into a board nailed to a tree. Eugenides, Thief of Eddis, haunter of Queen Attolia, has tormented her once too often. Dragged off to prison, Eugenides must now await the pleasure of the cruel Attolian queen. Praying to the God of Thieves, Gen can only hope for death, but at the insistence of the Median ambassador, Attolia chooses to chop off his right hand and send the crippled Thief back to Eddis, as a cruel reminder of which queen holds the upper hand.

A sequel to Turner's Newberry Honor Book *The Thief*, this fast-paced, intense page-turner leaves the reader begging for more. Written into the Mediterranean landscape, the fictional counties of Eddis, Attolia, and Sounis are thrust into war when Queen Eddis seeks revenge on behalf of her Thief. Turner has crafted an intricate web of political intrigue, military strategy, and innocent love that keeps the reader on the edge of the seat. This is a story rampant with raw emotion, danger, revenge, and cunning where a one-handed Thief must bring peace to the warring nations and destroy the stone-hard mask hiding the woman he has loved for years. Congratulations go to Turner for another masterfully written novel that will keep readers coming back for more.


A 4+ FI Reviewed by Lillian H. Heil

Nola and her mother are witches; witches are feared, hated, and put into prison. When Nola's mother starts hearing voices, her behavior convinces people she is using witchcraft. To avoid persecution, Nola and her mother are constantly on the move. Nola's fear of discovery leads her to use water-spying spells to check on people who might be following them to accuse them of witchcraft. The plot thickens when she witnesses a murder, and it becomes positively slapstick when Nola returns to the scene to get rid of an incriminating bucket of water, still spying on a farmer who had called them witches. A sprained ankle and falling in love with the police commissioner add up to an amusing solution to the murder and an ending that will make the reader chuckle.

Vande Velde has always dealt with witches and princesses in an unorthodox manner, but the comic touch to this tale is delightful. Her characters have depth, her humor is tongue in cheek, and the fast-moving plot keeps pace with the madcap events Nola brings on herself.

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* 1-3 PB PT Reviewed by AnnMarie Hamar

Jazz is often considered “the quintessential American musical art form.” In this impressive book, Weatherford traces the development of jazz from its roots in African tribal music to Mississippi Delta blues to the Dixieland sound of New Orleans and the jazz nightclubs of Harlem. The story is told in poetic form that captures the passion of African-American music. Coretta Scott King New Talent Award-winner Eric Velasquez’s double-page oil illustrations highlight such jazz greats as Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, and Duke Ellington. This is a superb introduction to jazz and to the African-American musical experience.

© 2000 Eric Velasquez Walker


A 5+ FI Reviewed by AnnMarie Hamar

Koly’s family is so poor they can barely afford to feed her, so, at the age of thirteen, she becomes engaged to a boy she has never met. Although she worries about whether or not they’ll be compatible, Koly never has the chance to experience life as a married woman. She learns shortly before the wedding that her bridegroom, Hari, is very ill. His parents consented to the marriage only because they needed Koly’s dowry to take Hari on a pilgrimage to the holy Ganges River. Hari dies during the trip, and Koly finds herself a young widow in a society that has no use for women like her. After being abandoned in Vrindavan, a city of widows, by her spiteful mother-in-law, Koly attempts to make a new life for herself.

Whelan’s story is a fascinating look at one young woman’s journey of self-discovery and her attempts to rebuild her life within the strict social structure of Hindu society. Koly is a likeable character who is portrayed with a great deal of sympathy and admiration. Whelan’s book is also an insightful, well-researched introduction to Indian life and customs. She includes a number of Hindi words in the text, all of which are explained in a glossary at the end of the story. The only concern is that the happily-ever-after ending is probably too American in its outlook.


A Pre-3 PB Reviewed by Gabi Kupitz

Grandpa, who loves to paint, and Grandma, whose hobby is baking cakes, are at odds with each other. Suddenly, Grandma wants the two of them to spend more time outdoors doing things together. Grandpa reluctantly goes along with Grandma’s plans, but his heart just isn’t into mountain climbing, sledding, water sports, and other items on Grandma’s agenda. Grandpa’s body just can’t keep up. He suggests they stay home, but that doesn’t quite work out until Grandpa and Grandma take up the hobbies they individually enjoy.

Full-page paintings and sparse text detail the aging process in a humorous and understandable story ideal for both young and old.