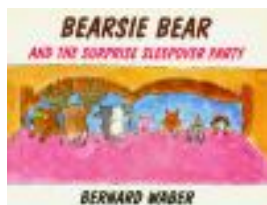


# Capitol Choices

*Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens*

## 1997 Books for Ages Up to Seven

Please click on a cover to see a larger image

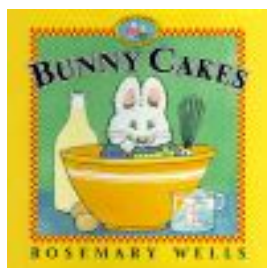


### ***BEARSIE BEAR AND THE SURPRISE SLEEPOVER PARTY***

by Bernard Waber

Houghton Mifflin; ISBN: 039586450X; \$15;

The night is cold, the snow is deep, but Bearsie Bear has a warm fire and a cozy bed, which his shivering animal friends discover one by one. All is well until Porky Porcupine arrives. A rollicking read-aloud.

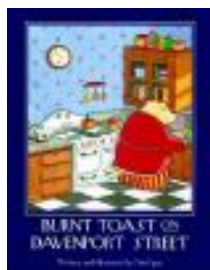


### ***BUNNY CAKES***

by Rosemary Wells

Dial; ISBN: 0803721439; \$14.99;

Ruby is making Grandma an angel surprise birthday cake with raspberry fluff icing, but Max, who likes earthworms and Red-Hot Marshmallow Squirters, has other ideas.



### ***BURNT TOAST ON DAVENPORT STREET***

by Tim Egan

Houghton Mifflin; ISBN: 0395796180; \$14.95;

When a mixed-up magical fly grants three wishes to Arthur the dog, his simple life becomes unpredictable with humorous results. An excellent read-aloud for the early elementary grades.



### ***DAISY IS A MOMMY***

by Lisa Kopper

Dutton; ISBN: 0525457224; \$11.99;

Toddlers will love seeing their own mother/child interactions paralleled by bull terrier Daisy and her puppies-up until the last pages, when everyone takes a jumbled nap on Mommy's bed.



### **FLORA MCDONNELL'S ABC**

by Flora McDonnell

Candlewick; ISBN: 0763601187; \$16.99;

Bold illustrations in vibrant colors introduce the alphabet with humor and liveliness to very young children.

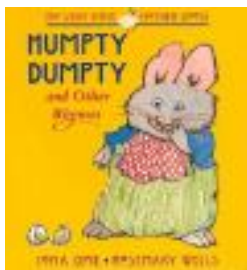


### **GINGER**

by Charlotte Voake

Candlewick; ISBN: 076360108X; \$16.99;

Ginger is the happiest of cats until the little girl brings home a new kitten. Oversized illustrations convey the humor and drama of the story in a book to be read and re-read.



### **HUMPTY DUMPTY: AND OTHER RHYMES**

illustrated by Rosemary Wells

edited by Iona Opie

Candlewick; ISBN: 0763603538; \$6.99;

The rhymes in these short collections are part of the heritage of spoken music every baby should hear. Now Wells's warm palette and winsome critters bring Mother Goose's canon to life in a hard-page format for the littlest book tasters. Other titles in the series are: Little Boy Blue: And Other Rhymes (0763603546), Pussycat Pussycat: And Other Rhymes (0763603554), and Wee Willie Winkie: And Other Rhymes (0763603562).

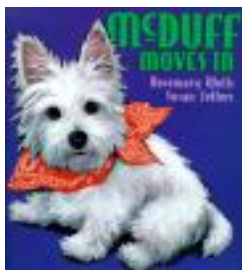


### **LEON AND BOB**

by Simon James

Candlewick; ISBN: 1564029913; \$15.99;

After moving to a new town, Leon's imaginary friend, Bob, keeps him company and gives him courage as he explores his new neighborhood. Sensitive watercolors and a surprise ending will delight young readers.



### **MCDUFF MOVES IN**

by Rosemary Wells

illustrated by Susan Jeffers

Hyperion; ISBN: 0786803185; \$12.95;

The dogcatcher's roundups for the night include a beguiling West Highland terrier who escapes and goes looking for a home. After encounters with a frightening dog and a hissing cat, he finds just the right couple to rescue him. A comforting bedtime story.



### ***MERL AND JASPER'S SUPPER CAPER***

by Laura Rankin

Knopf; ISBN: 0679881050; \$17.99;

If you're the dog and cat drawn by the girl, Ann, you're bound to get hungry when she doesn't draw you any dinner. What to do? Jump off the page and look through food-related nursery rhyme books, of course!



### ***MOUSE MESS***

by Linnea Asplind Riley

Blue Sky Press; ISBN: 0590100483; \$15.95;

Illustrations made from intricately cut papers combine with a clever rhyming text to tell the story of a naughty mouse, a mound of food, and a monumental mess.



### ***NAPPY HAIR***

by Carolivia Herron

illustrated by Joe Cepeda

Knopf; ISBN: 0679879374; \$17;

Using the African American tradition of call and response, the author celebrates the beauty and uniqueness of tightly curled hair. The vivid illustrations depict young Brenda's joy in having hair that "makes eight complete circles per inch."



### ***NO SUCH THING***

by Jackie French Koller

illustrated by Betsy Lewin

Boyds Mills; ISBN: 1563974908; \$14.95;

Howard tells his mother he's afraid there's a monster under his bed. The monster under the bed tells his mother he's afraid there's a boy above his bed. Boy and monster meet. Fitting watercolor illustrations make this book memorable.



### ***NUGGET AND DARLING***

by Barbara M. Josse

illustrated by Sue Truesdell

Clarion; ISBN: 0395645719; \$14.95;

Nugget, a dog, feels pangs of jealousy when Nell starts paying attention to the new kitten, Darling. The feelings are universal, including those of reassurance of everyone's special place.



### **QUEENIE, ONE OF THE FAMILY**

by Bob Graham

Candlewick; ISBN: 0763603597; \$15.99;

Dad rescues a hen from the pond, and so begins the hilarious story of how Queenie becomes part of the family. In this tale of stubborn poultry, knitting fathers, patient dogs, and pregnant moms, a family is the wholeness of what the heart includes.



### **TELL ME A SEASON**

by Mary McKenna Siddals

illustrated by Petra Mathers

Clarion; ISBN: 0395710219; \$12.95;

One house and two young children move through the seasons with the help of clear, expressive words and jewel-like art.



### **THE GINGERBREAD BOY**

by Richard Egielski

HarperCollins; ISBN: 0060260300; \$14.95;

"Run, run, as fast as you can..." sounds familiar, but this time a favorite character is running through the streets of New York chased by a rat, construction workers, street musicians, and a mounted policeman.



### **THE THREE LITTLE PIGS**

illustrated by Steven Kellogg

retold by Steven Kellogg

William Morrow & Company; ISBN: 0688087310; \$16;

In this inventive retelling, the Sow family sells waffles to make a living. Trouble comes when Tempesto, the big bad wolf, is not hungry for waffles, but wants ham, bacon, and sausage! Kellogg brings a happy end to the story and leaves us hungry for waffles ourselves.



### **THERE WAS AN OLD LADY WHO SWALLOWED A FLY**

written and illustrated by Simms Taback

Viking; ISBN: 0670869392; \$14.99;

This colorful, zany rendition of the popular American folk song features a clever cutout for the old lady's ever-expanding tummy. A 1998 Caldecott Honor book.

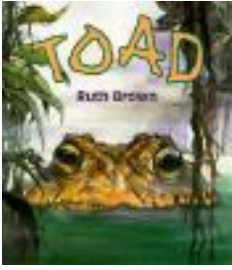


### **TIME TO SLEEP**

by Denise Fleming

Henry Holt; ISBN: 0805037624; \$15.95;

The days are growing shorter, the leaves are falling, and all the signs of winter are in the air as bear, ladybug, woodchuck, and their friends prepare to hibernate.

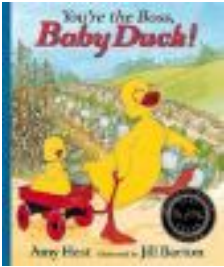


## **TOAD**

by Ruth Brown

Dutton; ISBN: 0525457577; \$15.99;

From egg-laden endpapers to mud-spattered pages, a gloriously warty story with water-level perspectives that invite the onlooker into the realm of the "muddy ... mucky ... clammy, sticky, gooey toad."



## **YOU'RE THE BOSS, BABY DUCK**

by Amy Hest

illustrated by Jill Barton

Candlewick; ISBN: 1564026671; \$16.99;

Baby Duck's beak is out of joint when her new baby sister, Hot Stuff, arrives. Under the sensitive wing of Grandpa, she learns about the advantages of being the oldest and "The Boss." Barton's bright illustrations give this oversized picture book appeal.

[Welcome](#) | [1996](#) | [1997](#) | [1998](#) | [1999](#) | [2000](#) | [2001](#) | [2002](#) | [2003](#) | [2004](#) | [2005](#) | [2006](#) | [2007](#) | [2008](#) | [2009](#) | [2010 In Progress](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Search](#)

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# Capitol Choices

## Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens

### 1997 Books for Ages Seven to Ten

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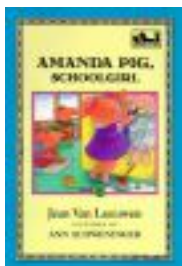


#### ***ALL ABOUT RATTLESNAKES***

by Jim Arnosky

Scholastic; ISBN: 0590467948; \$15.95;

Vivid green, gold, and brown pictures, some lifesize, accompany a brief but factfilled text. For all young snake lovers.



#### ***AMANDA PIG, SCHOOLGIRL***

by Jean Van Leeuwen

illustrated by Ann Schweninger

Dial; ISBN: 0803719809; \$13.99;

Amanda Pig is exuberant! The day has finally come when she can go to school just like her big brother, Oliver. New readers will share Amanda's excitement as she experiences her first day of school and makes a new best friend.

#### ***ANT PLAYS BEAR***

by Betsy Byars

illustrated by Marc Simont

Viking; ISBN: 0670867764; \$11.99;

Four more stories for beginning readers from the author and illustrator of My Brother Ant. Younger, literal-minded Ant sometimes tries the patience of his wiser older brother, but love and kindness prevail. Simont's understated illustrations match the gentle humor of the stories.



#### ***AUTHOR: A TRUE STORY***

by Helen Lester

Houghton Mifflin; ISBN: 0395827442; \$10.95;

Helen Lester chronicles her writing career—from 3-year-old grocery-list creator to her first acceptance letter. Like her literary creation, Tacky the penguin, her brief autobiography bears witness to the fact that being "an odd bird" is a bit of all right.

### ***BEARSKIN***

by Howard Pyle

illustrated by Trina Schart Hyman

Morrow; ISBN: 0688098371; \$16;

A young man raised by a bear is the only one brave enough to conquer the dragon and win the hand of the princess. Hyman's glorious illustrations perfectly match the rich storytelling language of the text.

### ***BUBBA THE COWBOY PRINCE: A FRACTURED TEXAS TALE***

by Helen Ketteman

illustrated by James Warhola

Scholastic; ISBN: 0590255061; \$15.95;

Bubba's left at home while his wicked stepdaddy and two stepbrothers go off to court the rich ranch owner, Miz Lurleen, at her cowboy ball. Who better to raise Bubba's spirits than his very own fairy "godcow." Warhola's animated paintings and Ketteman's text are a magical combination.

### ***FLOATING HOME***

by David Getz

illustrated by Michael Rex

Henry Holt; ISBN: 0805044973; \$15.95;

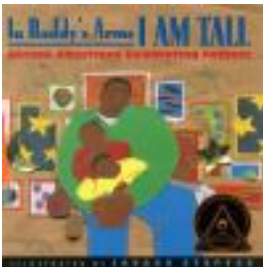
Eight-year-old Maxine joins the space shuttle crew for an outer space adventure in this imaginative blend of fact and fiction.

### ***IN DADDY'S ARMS I AM TALL: AFRICAN AMERICANS CELEBRATING FATHERS***

illustrated by Javaka Steptoe

Lee & Low Books; ISBN: 1880000318; \$15.95;

Stunning collage art extends the powerful poetry in this joyful anthology. Winner of the 1998 Coretta Scott King Award for illustration.



### ***MARVEN OF THE GREAT NORTH WOODS***

by Kathryn Lasky

illustrated by Kevin Hawkes

Harcourt Brace; ISBN: 0152001042; \$16;

A Jewish boy is sent alone to a logging camp in Minnesota, where he spends the winter and befriends a giant of a French-Canadian logger. The acrylic paintings, in the deep blues of snow and forest, convey the charm and good humor of the story.



### ***MARVIN'S BEST CHRISTMAS PRESENT EVER***

by Katherine Paterson

illustrated by Jane Clark Brown

HarperCollins; ISBN: 0060271590; \$14.95;

Marvin wants to make a Christmas present for his parents that will be as good as his sister's gifts and one that will last forever. His wreath for the dairy barn delights the family and provides a surprise for them all in the spring.

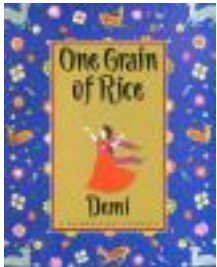
### ***NIM AND THE WAR EFFORT***

by Milly Lee

illustrated by Yangsook Choi

Farrar, Straus & Giroux; ISBN: 0374355231; \$16;

Set in San Francisco's Chinatown during World War II, Nim tries to help the war effort and win her school's newspaper drive. A blend of historical and cultural detail, this picture book for older readers addresses racism in defining who is a "real" American.



### ***ONE GRAIN OF RICE: A MATHEMATICAL FOLKTALE***

Scholastic; ISBN: 059093998X; \$19.95;

When you double a grain of rice every day for a month, it really adds up! A clever village girl teaches the Rajah to be wise and to appreciate math in this folktale retelling.

### ***PREMLATA AND THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS***

by Rumer Godden

illustrated by Ian Andrew

Greenwillow; ISBN: 0688151361; \$15;

In this story set in India, Premlata is upset because her mother sold their oil lamps, or deepas, to buy food. She fears their house will be the only one unlit on Diwali, the Festival of Lights. Her plans to buy new lamps don't turn out quite as she expects.

### ***RAPUNZEL***

by Paul O. Zelinsky

Dutton; ISBN: 0525456074; \$16.99;

The girl with the long, golden hair will be remembered by all who meet her in this new retelling featuring rich oil paintings in the style of the Italian Renaissance. Winner of the 1998 Caldecott Award.

### ***RIKKI-TIKKI-TAVI***

by Rudyard Kipling

illustrated by Jerry Pinkney

Morrow; ISBN: 0688143202; \$16;

Kipling's beloved, timeless story about a brave mongoose who comes to the rescue when two wicked cobras threaten Teddy. Pinkney's handsome pen and watercolor illustrations convincingly portray an Indian garden and its inhabitants.

### ***RUMPELSTILTSKIN'S DAUGHTER***

by Diane Stanley

Morrow; ISBN: 068814327X; \$15;

In this tongue-in-cheek "sequel" to the classic tale, Rumpelstiltskin's daughter finds herself in that familiar room of straw. Deciding not to ask her dad for help, she outwits the greedy king all by herself.

### ***SEVEN BRAVE WOMEN***

by Betsy Gould Hearne

illustrated by Bethanne Andersen

Greenwillow; ISBN: 0688145027; \$15;

Seven inspirational stories relate the lives of seven brave women, illustrating their physical, intellectual, and spiritual strength. Bright oil illustrations make this a truly handsome book.



### ***SHINGEBISS: AN OJIBWE LEGEND***

by Nancy Van Laan

illustrated by Betsy Bowen

Houghton Mifflin; ISBN: 0395827450; \$16;

Little Shingebiss is a resourceful merganser duck who must find a way to survive the fierce winter of the Great Lakes region. The storyteller's use of Ojibwe terms and Bowen's striking woodcut block prints add authenticity and charm to this retelling.

### ***TALE OF A TADPOLE***

by Barbara Ann Porte

illustrated by Annie Cannon

Orchard; ISBN: 0531300498; \$15.95;

The gentle text and delicate watercolors weave a wealth of scientific detail into this quiet story about a little girl's interest in her tadpole.



### ***THE FIVE SISTERS***

by Margaret Mahy

illustrated by Patricia MacCarthy

Viking; ISBN: 0670870420; \$14.955;

Mahy's whimsical story brings to life a grandmother's paper chain of dolls and takes us with them on a wonderful adventure.

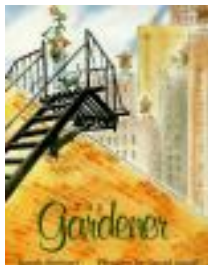
### ***THE GARDENER***

by Sarah Stewart

illustrated by David Small

Farrar, Straus & Giroux; ISBN: 0374325170; \$16;

During the Depression, Lydia Grace brings joy to her uncle's dreary urban neighborhood with her colorful rooftop garden. A 1998 Caldecott Honor book.



### ***THE HUNTERMAN AND THE CROCODILE: A WEST AFRICAN FOLKTALE***

by Baba Wagué Diakité

Scholastic; ISBN: 0590898280; \$15.95;

The voice of the storyteller resonates in the text of this West African tale that turns on the relationship between man, animals, and the earth they all share. Boldly stylized ceramic-tile paintings reinforce the ancient, universal lineage of this narrative.

### ***THE KHAN'S DAUGHTER: A MONGOLIAN FOLKTALE***

by Laurence Yep

illustrated by Jean Tseng and Mou-Sien Tseng

Scholastic; ISBN: 0590483897; \$16.95;

A poor peasant must pass three tests before he can marry the Khan's daughter, but the hardest test of all is posed by the clever girl herself. A traditional tale of love and equality set on the high Mongolian plains.

### ***THE LITTLE SHIPS: THE HEROIC RESCUE AT DUNKIRK IN WORLD WAR II***

by Louise Borden

illustrated by Michael Foreman

Margaret McElderry; ISBN: 0689808275; \$15;

The young narrator recounts the nine days in 1941 when she donned her brother's trousers to work beside her father on the fishing boat "Lucy." Foreman's watercolors create a sense of place and evoke the drama of the wartime rescues carried out by civilian heroes on their "little ships."

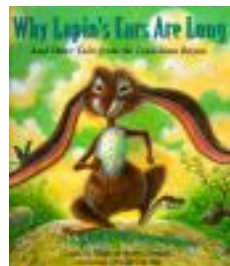
## ***THINKING ABOUT ANTS***

by Barbara Brenner

illustrated by Carol Schwartz

Mondo; ISBN: 1572552107; \$14.95;

The author's challenge to think about ants in all their variety is irresistible when accompanied by colorful paintings of these fascinating insects. Schwartz plays with scale so that sometimes the ants are life-size, while other times they cover the page.



## ***WHY LAPIN'S EARS ARE LONG: AND OTHER TALES FROM THE LOUISIANA BAYOU***

by Sharon Arms Doucet

illustrated by David Catrow

Orchard; ISBN: 0531300412; \$18.95;

Compere Rabbit, Br'er Rabbit's Louisiana cousin, is small but tricky. In the title story, he milks a wildcat, snatches an alligator's egg, and steals a grizzly's tooth. Ink and watercolor illustrations perfectly complement the great storytelling that begs to be spoken aloud.

[Welcome](#) | [1996](#) | [1997](#) | [1998](#) | [1999](#) | [2000](#) | [2001](#) | [2002](#) | [2003](#) | [2004](#) | [2005](#) | [2006](#) | [2007](#) | [2008](#) | [2009](#) | [2010 In Progress](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Search](#)

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# Capitol Choices

## Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens

### 1997 Books for Ages Ten to Fourteen

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#### ***AN EXTRAORDINARY LIFE: THE STORY OF A MONARCH BUTTERFLY***

by Laurence Pringle

illustrated by Bob Marstall

Orchard; ISBN: 0531300021; \$18.95;

The amazing life cycle of the monarch butterfly is chronicled through the story of one butterfly as it migrates from New England to Mexico and then heads northward for the spring. Marstall's accurate and artful paintings contribute to the fascinating journey.

#### ***BACK OF BEYOND: STORIES***

by Sarah Ellis

illustrated by Andrew Moore

Margaret McElderry; ISBN: 0689814844; \$15;

Expect the unexpected and the unexplainable in these 12 stories about young people in everyday events that take quick and quirky turns. More fun than fright, though some of both.

#### ***BATS: SHADOWS IN THE NIGHT***

by Diane Ackerman

photographed by Merlin Tuttle

Crown; ISBN: 0517709198; \$18;

In language both poetic and precise, Ackerman introduces readers to these mysterious creatures and to their champion, bat expert Melvin Tuttle, whose award-winning photographs illuminate the text.

#### ***CATCHING THE FIRE: PHILIP SIMMONS, BLACKSMITH***

by Mary Lyons

photographed by Mannie Garcia

Houghton Mifflin; ISBN: 0395720338; \$16;

An engaging portrait of an African American artist who could mold any design out of iron. The biography outlines Simmons' early work as a blacksmith in South Carolina during the 1920s and '30s and his transition to a master craftsman of unique iron gates, fences, and railings. Photographs of the artist and his works complement the text.

## ***ECHOES OF THE ELDERS: THE STORIES AND PAINTINGS OF CHIEF LELOOSKA***

by Don Lelooska

edited by Christine Normandin

DK Ink; ISBN: 078942455X; \$24.95;

The bold paintings reflect the enchanted quality of the five stories in this collection of sometimes scary tales from the Kwakiutl people of the Northwest coast. Chief Lelooska's own voice and the chants and drums on the accompanying CD add another wonderful dimension to the tales.



### ***ELLA ENCHANTED***

by Gail Carson Levine

ISBN: 0064407055; \$14.95;

In this lively retelling of Cinderella, a fairy gives baby Ella the gift of obedience. As Ella struggles with her "gift" and searches for a way to free herself from it, she meets ogres, giants, and wicked stepsisters along the way. A 1998 Newbery Honor book.

### ***HABIBI***

by Naomi Shihab Nye

Simon & Schuster; ISBN: 0689801491; \$16;

Fourteen-year-old Liyana, a collector of "great first lines," takes us on a lyrical journey of discovery when her Palestinian father moves his American family to a small town outside of Jerusalem.



### ***LEON'S STORY***

by Leon Tillage

illustrated by Susan L. Roth

Farrar, Straus & Giroux; ISBN: 0374343799; \$14;

As a sharecropper's child in the South, Leon learned to run from the klan on dark nights and from white children with stones, but he grew up to take part in the civil rights movement. Readers with no direct experience of this time in America's history will be stunned by the casual murder of Leon's father and by the daily indignities of a hard life. This short remembrance is told without bitterness in a direct and touching way.

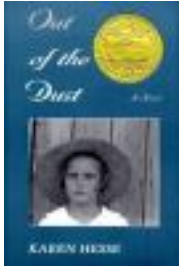


### ***LILY'S CROSSING***

by Patricia Reilly Giff

ISBN: 0385321422; \$14.95;

Their lives caught and changed by the war in Europe, Lily and Albert, a Hungarian refugee from the Nazis, become friends in Rockaway during the summer of 1944 and find solace and courage in each other's company. A 1998 Newbery Honor book.



## ***OUT OF THE DUST***

by Karen Hesse

ISBN: 0590360809; \$15.95;

Fourteen-year-old Billie Jo, her family, and the Oklahoma Dust Bowl spring to life through the spare, blank verse of this often-harsh book for older readers. The 1998 Newbery Award winner.

## ***OVER THE TOP OF THE WORLD: EXPLORER WILL STEGER'S TREK ACROSS THE ARCTIC***

by Will Steger and Jon Bowermaster

Scholastic; ISBN: 0590848607; \$17.95;

The Arctic is an ice-covered ocean that is sometimes as solid as land but is often a dangerous place of melting or shifting ice. In 1995, the author, along with five other explorers and 33 dogs, set out from Siberia to travel 1,000 miles across the North Pole to Canada. This is the story of the people, the dogs, and their daily life on the Arctic ice. A real inspiration for would-be adventurers.

## ***RED SCARF GIRL: A MEMOIR OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION***

by Ji-Li Jiang

HarperCollins; ISBN: 0060275855; \$14.95;

A 12-year-old student finds herself caught between loyalty to the Chinese communist government and love of her family when her father is targeted during the political turmoil of the 1960s. This exciting autobiography recalls a period not before described for young people.

## ***SEEDFOLKS***

by Paul Fleischman

illustrated by Judy Pedersen

HarperCollins; ISBN: 0060274719; \$13.95;

These spare, short chapters, each in a separate, distinctive voice, tell the shared tale of the blooming of an inner city vacant lot and the flowering of neighborliness among the gardeners, whose own roots are varied.

## ***SILVERWING***

by Kenneth Oppel

Simon & Schuster; ISBN: 0689815298; \$16;

Separated in a storm from his migrating colony of Silverwing bats, little Shade continues south pursued by two evil vampires but aided by Marina, a banded Brightwing bat. This new fantasy world, with its own mythology, technology and magic, remains true to the nature of bats. By story's end, Shade is poised for the next quest—a search for the father he has never known.

### ***SUN & SPOON***

by Kevin Henkes

Greenwillow; ISBN: 0688152325; \$15;

Ten-year-old Spoon's grandmother died several months ago. Afraid he will one day forget her, Spoon searches for something to remember her by. This quiet, comforting tale of loss and grief is full of family love, humor, and little bits of ordinary life.



### ***TANGERINE***

by Edward Bloor

Harcourt Brace; ISBN: 059043277X; \$17;

Paul Fisher may be legally blind, but in many ways he sees more than most do. This novel of growing self-awareness will intrigue middle school readers with its exciting sports descriptions and hint of mystery.



### ***THE BEAUTY OF THE BEAST: POEMS FROM THE ANIMAL KINGDOM***

illustrated by Meilo So

edited by Jack Prelutsky

Knopf; ISBN: 067987058X; \$25;

Prelutsky has chosen both familiar and unfamiliar poets for this delightful collection of animal poems. Colorful illustrations make this a treat for young readers.

### ***THE DANCING FOX: ARCTIC FOLKTALES***

illustrated by Mary K. Okheena

edited by John Bierhorst

William Morrow & Company; ISBN: 0688144063; \$15;

Eighteen Inuit folktales from an ancient oral tradition filled with magic and animals who can become people.

Includes notes on the Inuit culture.

### ***THE GIRL WHO DREAMED ONLY GEESE: AND OTHER TALES OF THE FAR NORTH***

by Howard Norman

illustrated by Leo Dillon and Diane Dillon

Harcourt Brace; ISBN: 0152309799; \$22;

Entertaining and thought-provoking adaptations of Inuit folktales are complemented by the Dillons' elegant artwork. Norman includes story notes giving information about the sources of his tales.

### ***THE OCTOPUS: PHANTOM OF THE SEA***

by Mary M. Cerullo

photographed by Jeffrey L. Rotman

Cobblehill; ISBN: 0525651993; \$16.99;

This detail-rich description of the ocean's shyest inhabitants uses familiar images to explain complex ideas. Clear, carefully crafted photographs display the vast variety of octopi, from just-hatched babies to giants that tip the scales at 100 pounds.

### ***THE ROBBER AND ME***

by Josef Holub

translated by Elizabeth D. Crawford

Henry Holt; ISBN: 0805055991; \$16.95;

Set in 19th century Germany, this is the touching story of Boniface Schroll, an orphan, and his struggles with truth and the need to belong. As he strives to find favor with his stern uncle, Boniface realizes that he alone holds the secrets that will prove the infamous "Robber" Knapp innocent.

### ***THE SECRETS OF ANIMAL FLIGHT***

by Nic Bishop

Houghton Mifflin; ISBN: 0395778484; \$14.95;

We know birds, bats, and insects can fly. Here are careful explanations, clear diagrams, and vibrant high-speed photographs that reveal the principles of animal flight.

### ***THE WATCHER***

by James Howe

Atheneum; ISBN: 0689801866; \$15;

Three young people watch one another at the beach, each hiding secrets that ultimately bring them together.

### ***WARRIORS, WARTHOGS AND WISDOM: GROWING UP IN AFRICA***

by Lyall Watson

illustrated by Keith R. West

Kingfisher; ISBN: 0753450666; \$16.95;

Growing up on his grandparents' farm in 1940s South Africa, Lyall Watson learned about nature from his best friend, Jabula, a Zulu chief turned farmhand. Reminiscent of the childhood recollections of Farley Mowat, this fascinating tale can be read alone or out loud.

## ***WHITE WATER***

by P. J. Petersen

Simon & Schuster; ISBN: 0689806647; \$15;

When his father is bitten by a rattlesnake during a white water rafting trip, older brother Greg must take charge and save the day. This short, action-packed page turner is also an excellent choice for a reluctant reader.



## ***WRINGER***

by Jerry Spinelli

ISBN: 0060249137; \$14.95;

Nine-year-old Palmer is haunted by turning ten, the age when boys in his town wring the necks of birds wounded in the annual pigeon shoot. Enter Nipper, a friendly pigeon with an orange-button eye, and the result is a compelling moral drama that is at once a fable and a child's worst fears. Children will relate to Palmer's dilemma and will be rooting for the "right" ending to the very last page. A 1998 Newbery Honor book.

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# Capitol Choices

*Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens*

## 1997 Books for Ages Fourteen and Up

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### ***BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE***

by Annette Curtis Klause

ISBN: 0385323050; \$16.95;

Having fallen for a human boy, a beautiful teenage werewolf must battle both her packmates and the fear of the townspeople to decide where she belongs and with whom.

### ***BOWMAN'S STORE: A JOURNEY TO MYSELF***

by Joseph Bruchac

Dial; ISBN: 0803719973; \$17.99;

Older readers will relate to this reminiscence of a youth spent hiding from bullies, being too smart, and wondering how to fit in. Bruchac's interweaving of stories from his Abenaki heritage make this a compelling biography.

### ***BURIED ONIONS***

by Gary Soto

Harcourt Brace; ISBN: 0152013334; \$17;

Eddie imagines that the heavy city vapors of his Fresno community come not from the heat of the sun, but from a giant onion buried beneath the asphalt. In the midst of hopelessness, violence, and death, Eddie must find the strength and purpose to live.

### ***COMMANDER IN CHIEF: ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND THE CIVIL WAR***

by Albert Marrin

Dutton; ISBN: 0525458220; \$25;

Although the descriptions of Lincoln are excessively laudatory, the book is historically accurate and the style of the writing makes the history come alive, focusing on Lincoln's role as commander in chief of the Northern forces.



### ***DANCING ON THE EDGE***

by Han Nolan

ISBN: 0152016481; \$16;

For Miracle McCloy, raised with her grandmother Gigi's mystical ways, reality has always been hard to grasp. So when Miracle's father disappears, Gigi's assertion that he has "melted" is enough. Will she find the courage to make her way back to reality?

### ***HARLEM: A POEM***

by Walter Dean Myers

illustrated by Christopher Myers

Scholastic; ISBN: 0590543407; \$16.95;

The sights, sounds, colors, and rich life of Harlem are celebrated in poetry and vibrant collage art. A 1998 Caldecott Honor book; a 1998 Coretta Scott King Honor book for illustration.

### ***KISSING THE WITCH: OLD TALES IN NEW SKINS***

by Emma Donoghue

HarperCollins; ISBN: 0060275758; \$14.95;

Each female narrator of these stories inhabits the place and events of a familiar fairy tale. But here the tales become lyrical, strange stories of love and friendship between women.

### ***THE FACTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES***

by Brock Cole

Front Street; ISBN: 1886910146; \$15.95;

A chilling story of child abuse and neglect is told in the first person by 13-year-old Linda in a tone that is matter of fact. A tour-de-force whose audience will be found among senior high and adult readers.

### ***THE HOUSE YOU PASS ON THE WAY***

by Jacqueline Woodson

Delacorte; ISBN: 0385321899; \$14.95;

Stagerlee's coming-of-age story deals with both racism and sexuality. The daughter of a black father and a white mother, Stagerlee discovers much about herself during a summer she spends with her cousin Tyler.

### ***THE SUBTLE KNIFE (HIS DARK MATERIALS, NO. 2)***

by Philip Pullman

Knopf; ISBN: 0679879250; \$20;

In this breathtaking sequel to *The Golden Compass*, Lyra has crossed into another dangerous world in her search for her mysterious father and for the meaning of Dust. She meets Will, a human youth on a similar quest, and together they journey to find the terrible truth of their shared destinies. A third book promises an exciting climax.

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