

CHILDREN'S Library Services

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Capitol Choices 2002

Noteworthy Books for Children Published During 2002

www.capitolchoices.org

Welcome to Capitol Choices

We are pleased to present the 2002 edition. To produce this list, more than 50 committee members spent many hours reading and discussing books and audiobooks for children and young people up through age 16. We hope that parents, librarians, teachers, and others interested in literature for young people will enjoy sharing these books and audiobooks with the children in their lives.

Launched in 1996 as a small outgrowth of the Library of Congress Committee on Recommended Books for Children, the Capitol Choices Committee now includes librarians, teachers, booksellers, children's literature specialists, university professors, and magazine editors who live and work in cities, suburbs, and rural areas in and around Washington, D.C. Committee members attend meetings from as far away as Wilmington, Delaware, and Charlottesville, Virginia, and serve on national book and media award committees.

Capitol Choices Committee members also present workshops on using books with young people. These presentations are tailored for a variety of audiences and interests, from education and library professionals to parents looking for good books for their children. If you would like to have a Capitol Choices workshop for your group, please contact us through the website at www.capitolchoices.org.

Be sure to visit our website often to see what the Committee is considering for 2003. This year we will add new features to the website that will make searching easier and will increase your ability to find the right book for the right child at the right time. You can also find information there on participating in Capitol Choices.

Many thanks to the Arlington County Department of Libraries and the Central Rappahannock Regional Library System for their support of Capitol Choices and its ongoing projects. Without their help the work of the Committee would not be possible.

Thanks also to Jerry Bryan, President of Children's Library Services, for his continuing support of the print editions of Capitol Choices.

Happy reading and listening!

— Sharon Grover, Arlington County (VA) Department of Libraries, and
Caroline S. Parr, Central Rappahannock (VA) Regional Library, Editors

Up to Seven

Banks, Kate

Illustrated by Georg Hallensleben

CLOSE YOUR EYES

Frances Foster; ISBN: 0374313822; \$16.00

Reassurance from mother tiger encourages a scared little tiger to go to sleep and dream, for she will be there when he wakes up. Broad brush strokes and warm tones highlight the tiger's imaginings and make this a cozy bedtime story.

Chitwood, Suzanne Tanner

WAKE UP, BIG BARN!

Cartwheel; ISBN: 0439266270; \$15.95

Each turn of the page reveals another farm animal vibrantly depicted in torn-paper illustrations, while a bouncy, rhyming text will have young ones mooing and hip-hopping, flapping and squawking from early morning till late at night.

Dunrea, Olivier

GOSSIE

Houghton Mifflin; ISBN: 0618176748; \$9.95

GOSSIE AND GERTIE

Houghton Mifflin; ISBN: 0618176764; \$9.95

Short, repetitive phrases geared to a child's ear introduce Gossie the gosling, who explores her barnyard with wonderment. When Gertie arrives, Gossie finds that her world is even bigger than she imagined. Straightforward, bold illustrations complement the simplicity of these stories.

Dunrea, Olivier

IT'S SNOWING!

Farrar, Straus & Giroux; ISBN: 0374399921; \$16.00

On a dark, winter night a mother bundles her baby and leaves the cozy fireside to go outdoors and enjoy the wonder of snow. Joyful gouache paintings capture a fairytale setting of rounded shapes against pine trees and mountains.

Fleming, Candace

Illustrated by G. Brian Karas

MUNCH! MUNCH! MUNCH!

Atheneum; ISBN: 0689831528; \$16.00

No matter what kind of fences or fortresses Mr. McGreely puts in their way—"Tippy-tippy-tippy, Pat!" and "Munch! Munch! Munch!"—three pesky bunnies manage to sneak into his beloved vegetable patch. Repeated wordplay and a surprise ending add to the fun.

Fleming, Denise

ALPHABET UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Henry Holt; ISBN: 0805068481; \$16.95

One energetic little mouse working as hard as he can creates an entire alphabet. Nailing, carving, gluing, and tiling, he whips through the alphabet like a mouse-sized cyclone. Extraordinary pulp-painting illustrations detail his progress.

George, Kristine O'Connell

Illustrated by June Otani

LITTLE DOG AND DUNCAN

Clarion; ISBN: 061811758X; \$12.00

A series of simply worded, softly illustrated, lyrical poems describes the gentle relationship between a scruffy little dog, his owner, and the Big Dog that comes to spend the night.

Guest, Elissa Haden

Illustrated by Christine Davenier

IRIS AND WALTER: THE SLEEPOVER

Harcourt; ISBN: 0152164871; \$14.00

A common childhood challenge, depicted in cheerful pastel watercolors, is handled with finesse. Iris has planned a sleepover at friend Walter's house, but on the dark porch she suddenly changes her mind. That's fine in this supportive book—she'll sleep over another day.

Henkes, Kevin

OWEN'S MARSHMALLOW CHICK

Greenwillow; ISBN: 0060010126; \$6.95

Every treat in Owen's Easter basket is happily consumed, until he comes to the yellow marshmallow chick. A complete character study is conveyed in just a few words and pictures.

Hindley, Judy

Illustrated by Ivan Bates

DO LIKE A DUCK DOES!

Candlewick; ISBN: 0763616680; \$14.99

Mama Duck tricks the hairy-scary stranger by challenging him to do what her five ducklings do, including jumping in the water.

Generously sized, expressive watercolor illustrations and a rollicking, rhyming text make this a great read-aloud.

Jackson, Ellen

Photographs by Shelley Rotner

SOMETIMES BAD THINGS HAPPEN

Millbrook; ISBN: 0761328106; \$22.90

In the simplest of terms that young readers can understand, Jackson talks about bad things like bullies, arguments, and scary news on television and suggests ways to cope with stress. Comforting color photographs are paired with the brief text.

Lillegard, Dee

Illustrated by Susan Guevara

TIGER, TIGER

Putnam; ISBN: 0399226338; \$16.99

Pocu wanders into the jungle where he finds a peacock feather and uses it to paint a great, beautiful tiger. Bright gouache paintings add mystery to magic when the beast comes to life, ravenously hungry, and Pocu must deconstruct it before he is eaten.

McMullan, Kate and Jim

I STINK!

Joanna Cotler; ISBN: 0060298480; \$15.95

A messy, bold trash truck goes about its rounds enthusiastically picking up an alphabet's worth of moldy meatballs, nasty neckties, and puppy poo. Vibrant colors, exciting typefaces, and boisterous language make this a spirited read-aloud.

Pearson, Tracey Campbell

BOB

Farrar, Straus & Giroux; ISBN: 0374399573; \$16.00

Bob the rooster is big, bold, and beautiful in Pearson's strikingly patterned watercolors, but he doesn't know how to crow. How he finally learns, after several false starts, makes a funny story perfectly paced for preschoolers.

Ray, Mary Lyn

Illustrated by Amiko Hirao

ALL ABOARD!

Little, Brown; ISBN: 0316735078; \$14.95

Changing perspectives and the rhythm of train sounds make this magical, dreamy story of a little girl's overnight trip to visit her grandparents a gift to the eyes, ears, and imagination.

Shannon, David

DAVID GETS IN TROUBLE

Blue Sky; ISBN: 0439050227; \$15.95

From "I forgot" to "But Dad says it!," David's excuses for everything from walking down the street in his underpants to repeating a bad word show us how a rambunctious but good-hearted little boy copes with the grown-up world.

Shannon, David

DUCK ON A BIKE

Blue Sky; ISBN: 0439050235; \$15.95

Brightly colored illustrations, ingenious page design, and sly humor provide the perfect backdrop for an intrepid duck who incites an entire barnyard to embark on an exuberant bicycle escapade. The grand finale is assured—until the duck spies a tractor!

Stojic, Manya

SNOW

Knopf; ISBN: 0375823484; \$15.95

The animals know it's coming, and that it will melt away come spring. Owl, moose, hare, and others prepare for winter's first snow, depicted in spare, poetic text and double-page paintings.

Taback, Simms

THIS IS THE HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT

Putnam; ISBN: 0399234888; \$15.99

A colorful and entertaining rendition of the famous cumulative rhyme features mixed-media illustrations with great attention to detail. The telling is lively and filled with tongue-in-cheek humor that will delight children and the adults who read to them.

Thomas, Shelley Moore

GET WELL, GOOD KNIGHT

Dutton; ISBN: 0525469141; \$13.99

The Good Knight comes to the rescue of three sick dragons and discovers that wizardry and magic are no match for a mother's loving touch. Repeated phrases and cheerful cartoon illustrations make this an inspired choice for beginning readers.

Wilson, Karma

Illustrated by Jane Chapman

BEAR SNORES ON

Margaret K. McElderry; ISBN: 0689831870; \$16.00

On a cold winter night, bear snores in his cave as one animal after another sneaks in to join him. Rhythmic text and oversized acrylic illustrations in rich tones of the season make this a read-aloud favorite.

Wong, Janet S.

Illustrated by Margaret Chodos-Irvine

APPLE PIE 4TH OF JULY

Harcourt; ISBN: 015202543X; \$16.00

A Chinese American girl whose parents own a market learns that Chinese food is acceptable—even on the 4th of July. Cultural differences are handled with warmth and sensitivity in crisp, primary-color illustrations and straightforward text.

Woodson, Jacqueline

Illustrated by James E. Ransome

VISITING DAY

Scholastic; ISBN: 0590400053; \$15.95

Illustrations saturated in brilliant color portray an event that all too many children face at one time or another—visiting an incarcerated parent. A young girl's fierce love and unwavering optimism turn a somber event into a celebration.

Seven to Ten

Anderson, Laurie Halse

Illustrated by Matt Faulkner

THANK YOU, SARAH: THE WOMAN WHO SAVED THANKSGIVING

Simon & Schuster; ISBN: 0689847874; \$16.95

Sarah Hale's 38-year crusade to make Thanksgiving a national holiday is energetically detailed through anecdote and illustration in this amusing, true tale of dogged persistence.

Bang-Campbell, Monika

Illustrated by Molly Bang

LITTLE RAT SETS SAIL

Harcourt; ISBN: 0152162976; \$14.00

Little Rat reluctantly enrolls in a summer sailing class and, with a few modest successes, conquers her fears and decides to sign up again next year. Supportive adults, a lively telling with correct sailing terminology, and bright illustrations add to the subtle message.

Clements, Andrew

A WEEK IN THE WOODS

Simon & Schuster; ISBN: 068982596X; \$16.95

The fifth grade's annual camping trip in the New Hampshire woods tests Mark's values and

his survival skills, as well as those of his science teacher. Both characters grow and come to like and respect one another in this convincing, fast-paced novel.

Denslow, Sharon Phillips

Illustrated by Lynne Rae Perkins

GEORGIE LEE

Greenwillow; ISBN: 0688179401; \$15.95

Disproving that "there's nothing to do in the country," J.D. has a series of small adventures while spending the summer on his grandmother's farm with a cow named Georgie Lee. A perceptive, gently humorous, and warmly satisfying short novel.

Florian, Douglas

SUMMERSAULTS

Greenwillow; ISBN: 0060292679; \$15.95

Celebrate summer with short, witty, always on-the-mark poems illustrated with childlike, full-color watercolor and pencil paintings. Alas, all good things must end, and so do the delights of summer with, "Three words /Most cruel: /Back to school."

Gerstein, Mordicai

WHAT CHARLIE HEARD

Frances Foster; ISBN: 0374382921; \$17.00

Bright, lighthearted illustrations capture the lovely cacophony of the world—its clattering, busy dissonance as well as its melodies and harmonies—in this brief, affectionate picture-book portrait of Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Charles Ives and his inspiring father.

Greenberg, Jan and Sandra Jordan

Illustrated by Robert Andrew Parker

ACTION JACKSON

Roaring Brook; ISBN: 0761316825; \$16.95

Lively text and vigorous illustrations reflect perfectly the life and style of Jackson Pollock, who dripped, poured, and flung paint on canvas and described his art as “energy and motion made visible.” Detailed documentation adds to this picture-book biography’s usefulness.

Grifalconi, Ann

Illustrated by Kadir Nelson

THE VILLAGE THAT VANISHED

Dial; ISBN: 0803726236; \$16.99

The resourcefulness, bravery, and faith of a girl, her mother, and an elder save the people of an African village from slavers. Textured illustrations and eloquent prose create a taut, affecting book.

Grimes, Nikki

Illustrated by E.B. Lewis

TALKIN’ ABOUT BESSIE: THE STORY OF AVIATOR ELIZABETH COLEMAN

Orchard; ISBN: 0439352436; \$16.95

More than a dozen people share their memories of the life of the first licensed African American pilot, Bessie Coleman. Striking watercolors and tiny sepia portraits of the speakers lend authenticity and warmth to this appealing biography.

Hopkinson, Deborah

Illustrated by James E. Ransome

UNDER THE QUILT OF NIGHT

Anne Schwartz; ISBN: 0689822278; \$16.00

The deep hues of paintings and the hushed urgency of poems convey the powerful experience of a family’s escape via the Underground Railroad.

Jackson, Donna M.

THE BUG SCIENTISTS

Houghton Mifflin; ISBN: 0618108688; \$16.00

An exploration of a variety of careers that involve bugs—forensic scientist, outdoor classroom teacher, researcher studying farmer ants, and trainer of movie insects. They’re all fascinated with the most populous species on the planet and, as a result, so are we readers.

Jenkins, Steve

LIFE ON EARTH: THE STORY OF EVOLUTION

Houghton Mifflin; ISBN: 0618164766; \$16.00

This eloquent book traces the evolution of life from bacteria to humans with clear explanations of extinction, Darwin’s contributions, mutations, and what is yet to be discovered. Cut-paper collage illustrations brilliantly capture detail and lighten the challenging concepts.

Kalman, Maira

FIREBOAT: THE HEROIC ADVENTURES OF THE JOHN J. HARVEY

Putnam; ISBN: 0399239537; \$16.99

The stirring story of an old boat saved and restored by a group of friends who rose to the challenge that was September 11, 2001. Kalman’s understated text and detailed art provide an appropriate avenue of discussion for young children.

Lottridge, Celia Barker

Illustrated by Elsa Myotte

BERTA: A REMARKABLE DOG

Groundwood; ISBN: 0888994613; \$14.95

In this simple, satisfying beginning chapter book dachshund Berta is a tender and watchful foster mother to a newborn lamb and other young animals in her farmyard world—just as she plans to be with her own puppies.

Lowry, Lois

Illustrated by Middy Thomas

GOONEY BIRD GREENE

Houghton Mifflin; ISBN: 0618238484; \$15.00

Gooney Bird Greene arrives in second grade full of improbable stories that mesmerize her classmates. Her tales turn out to be “absolutely true” in this funny chapter book with much to say about the art of storytelling and writing.

Mills, Claudia

Illustrated by G. Brian Karas

7 X 9 = TROUBLE!

Farrar, Straus & Giroux; ISBN: 0374367469; \$15.00

Learning his times tables is a big problem for third-grader Wilson, since even his little brother finds it a breeze. Well-paced, funny, and believable—just right for readers of first chapter books.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds

STARTING WITH ALICE

Atheneum; ISBN: 068984395X; \$15.95

Growing up with a father and big brother but without a mother presents challenges, both sad and funny, to an eight-year-old. This first of three prequels to a popular series makes the Alice stories available to younger readers.

Okimoto, Jean Davies and Elaine M. Aoki

Illustrated by Meilo So

**THE WHITE SWAN EXPRESS:
A STORY ABOUT ADOPTION**

Clarion; ISBN: 0618164537; \$16.00

Four very different kinds of families are followed as they travel to China to pick up their adopted daughters. Perfect detail in both text and art allows readers to share the families' excitement and the bond formed on their journey.

Old, Wendie

Illustrated by Robert Andrew Parker

TO FLY: THE STORY OF THE WRIGHT BROTHERS

Clarion; ISBN: 061813347X; \$16.00

In a picture-book biography illustrated with pen and watercolor sketches, Old focuses on the sheer inventiveness of the two brothers who started out as bicycle mechanics and ended up changing history.

Pinkney, Andrea Davis

Illustrated by Brian Pinkney

ELLA FITZGERALD: THE TALE OF A VOCAL VIRTUOSA

Jump at the Sun; ISBN: 0786805684; \$16.99

In a swingin' combination of musical metaphors, Scat Cat Monroe narrates this creative, jazzy biography that recalls the singer's career in jivin' words and jumpin' scratchboard pictures.

Prelutsky, Jack

Illustrated by Peter Sís

SCRANIMALS

Greenwillow; ISBN: 0688178197; \$16.99

The marvelously concocted creature mixtures (the Broccolions, Bananaconda, and Radishark) that inhabit Scranimal Island are described in spirited rhymes and dreamily detailed illustrations.

Ryan, Pam Muñoz

Illustrated by Brian Selznick

WHEN MARIAN SANG

Scholastic; ISBN: 0439269679; \$16.95

Luminous sepia-toned illustrations and a vibrant text movingly portray the life of Marian Anderson, the modest and inward-looking woman who overcame racial prejudice to become one of the most revered singers in American history.

Sachs, Marilyn

Illustrated by Rosanne Litzinger

THE FOUR UGLY CATS IN APARTMENT 3D

Atheneum; ISBN: 0689845812; \$15.00

When her gruff neighbor dies, 10-year-old Lily is determined to find homes for his four motley, seemingly unlovable cats. An easy-to-read story, full of realism and suspense, accompanied by simple, childlike pen-and-ink drawings.

Sierra, Judy

Illustrated by Stefano Vitale

CAN YOU GUESS MY NAME? TRADITIONAL TALES AROUND THE WORLD

Clarion; ISBN: 0618133283; \$20.00

Versions of such well-known tales as the Three Pigs and Rumpelstiltskin taken from such far-flung countries as Sweden, Burma, and Swaziland are gathered together in this distinctively illustrated volume. Complete with informative notes, these retellings add diversity to folktale collections.

Spinelli, Jerry

LOSER

Joanna Cotler; ISBN: 0060001933; \$15.99

Donald Zinkoff is a klutz, giggles inappropriately, and is generally oblivious to the kids who dub him a loser. But Donald is also caring and optimistic. This staccato, present-tense telling questions who—and what—being a loser really is.

Ten to Fourteen

Alvarez, Julia

BEFORE WE WERE FREE

Knopf; ISBN: 0375815449; \$15.95

Suspense and a strong sense of place permeate the story of Anita, who turns 12 during the dangerous Trujillo dictatorship in the Dominican Republic, and finds that assassinations, secret police, and plots to escape are suddenly everyday happenings.

Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker

HALFWAY TO THE SKY

Delacorte; ISBN: 038572960X; \$15.95

Running away from the memory of a brother's death and her parents' breakup, 12-year-old Dani plans to hike the 2,167 miles of the Appalachian Trail alone in an adventure that is fast paced and hard to put down.

Clarke, Judith

WOLF ON THE FOLD

Front Street; ISBN: 1886910790; \$16.95

Six interconnected stories, elegantly written and full of emotional depth, reflect the coming-of-age of four generations of an Australian family and provide a thought-provoking reading experience.

Cooney, Caroline B.

GODDESS OF YESTERDAY

Delacorte; ISBN: 0385729456; \$15.95

In a page-turner that recounts the mythical story of Troy with a twist, Anaxandra, the daughter of a small-island chieftain, is taken captive and eventually finds herself in an adversarial role with Helen and Paris.

Farmer, Nancy

THE HOUSE OF THE SCORPION

Richard Jackson; ISBN: 0689852223; \$17.95

A young clone struggles to find his place in a world that reviles him in this vividly written, complex science fiction/fantasy, set in Opium, a drug-growing region between the United States and the former Mexico.

Fleischman, John

PHINEAS GAGE: A GRUESOME BUT TRUE STORY ABOUT BRAIN SCIENCE

Houghton Mifflin; ISBN: 0618052526; \$16.00

The arresting story of a railroad worker who lived successfully for 11 years after an iron rod shot through his head in an 1848 blasting accident. Includes fascinating details about the state of medicine then and what we know about brain science now.

Freedman, Russell

Illustrated by Frédéric Clement

CONFUCIUS: THE GOLDEN RULE

Arthur A. Levine; ISBN: 0439139570; \$15.95

This comprehensive portrait of the fifth-century B.C. Chinese philosopher provides a lively and engaging introduction to Eastern thought. Elegant and beautiful illustrations, evocative of Chinese-style painting, complement the text.

Funke, Cornelia

THE THIEF LORD

Chicken House; ISBN: 0439404371; \$16.95

Venice is the perfect setting for the twists and turns of this dramatic tale about two runaway orphan brothers who join a gang of street urchins and find themselves involved in a heist with magical consequences.

Giff, Patricia Reilly

PICTURES OF HOLLIS WOODS

Wendy Lamb; ISBN: 0385326556; \$15.95

Why would Hollis, a foster child, run away from a loving family that wants to adopt her? Alternating chapters of past and present resolve the mystery as Hollis discovers her self-worth in a poignant story strengthened by well-drawn characters.

Green, Michelle Y.

A STRONG RIGHT ARM: THE STORY OF MAMIE "PEANUT" JOHNSON

Dial; ISBN: 0803726619; \$15.99

One of only three women to play professional baseball in the Negro Leagues, Mamie Johnson was a pitcher for the Indianapolis Clowns. A fascinating account, based on extensive interviews, and told from Mamie's perspective.

Hiaasen, Carl

HOOT

Knopf; ISBN: 0375821813; \$15.95

Perennial new kid, Roy Eberhardt, is trying to survive middle school in Coconut Grove, Florida, when he spots a strange boy running through the neighborhoods of his bus route. Corrupt developers, bullies, and child abuse all play a part in this ecological mystery.

Ibbotson, Eva

Illustrated by Kevin Hawkes

JOURNEY TO THE RIVER SEA

Dutton; ISBN: 0525467394; \$17.99

The hot and mysterious rainforest of Brazil in 1910 sets the stage for Maia's journey to find family in this old-fashioned adventure story complete with orphans, mistaken identities, and genuinely sinister bad guys.

Lawton, Clive A.

AUSCHWITZ: THE STORY OF A NAZI DEATH CAMP

Candlewick; ISBN: 0763615951; \$17.99

Stunning historic photographs and documents and a brief text provide clear evidence of the horror of this Nazi death camp of World War II. An excellent complement to first-hand accounts of the era.

McKay, Hilary

SAFFY'S ANGEL

Margaret K. McElderry; ISBN: 0689849338; \$16.00

Zany, unconventional individuals pepper a hilarious adventure about 13-year-old Saffron who, upon learning she was adopted, is determined to go to Italy to find a stone angel she played with as a baby. Amid many laugh-out-loud scenes, she solves a mystery involving her grandfather.

Marrin, Albert

DR. JENNER AND THE SPECKLED MONSTER: THE SEARCH FOR THE SMALLPOX VACCINE

Dutton; ISBN: 0525469222; \$17.99

This timely and engaging read provides insight into the genesis of smallpox and the journey to find its cure. A disease that originated in cows, crossed species, and killed ruthlessly is now kept alive primarily for use in biological warfare.

Martin, Ann M.

A CORNER OF THE UNIVERSE

Scholastic; ISBN: 0439388805; \$15.95

Twelve-year-old Hattie's corner of the universe includes only what's safe and familiar—her parents, grandparents, and one best friend—until she meets a mentally ill uncle she never knew she had. Martin writes with love and wisdom about each character.

Myers, Walter Dean

Illustrated by Ann Grifalconi

PATROL: AN AMERICAN SOLDIER IN VIETNAM

HarperCollins; ISBN: 0060283637; \$16.95

Against a lush Vietnamese background, a young soldier tensely searches for the enemy. When they finally meet, the American realizes that he, too, is the enemy. The artist's richly hued collages add depth to a powerful, poetic anti-war statement.

Park, Linda Sue

WHEN MY NAME WAS KEOKO:

A NOVEL OF KOREA IN WORLD WAR II

Clarion; ISBN: 0618133356; \$16.00

The compelling saga of a Korean family losing its ethnic identity under Japanese occupation, told in alternating voices by siblings Sun-hee and her older brother Tae-yul. Korean culture, the vicissitudes of war, and the strength of the human spirit are clearly portrayed through powerful, yet understated writing.

Paterson, Katherine

THE SAME STUFF AS STARS

Clarion; ISBN: 0618247440; \$15.00

Angel, whose father is in jail and whose mother has abandoned her and her younger brother, meets the Star Man who teaches her about the universe and something about herself as well. A fluid and beautifully told tale of strength and resiliency.

Sayre, April Pulley

SECRETS OF SOUND: STUDYING THE CALLS AND SONGS OF WHALES, ELEPHANTS, AND BIRDS

Houghton Mifflin; ISBN: 0618015140; \$16.00

Three acoustic biologists study the sounds made by whales in the ocean, elephants in the rain forest, and birds in flight. By tracing each twist and turn of their research, Sayre reminds readers that science raises as many questions as it answers.

Stanley, Diane

SALADIN: NOBLE PRINCE OF ISLAM

HarperCollins; ISBN: 0688171354; \$16.99

The complex political and religious background of the Crusades is skillfully conveyed in Stanley's biography of the great Muslim leader famous for his generosity towards his enemies. Jewel-toned illustrations recall Persian miniatures or a medieval Book of Hours.

Walker, Sally M.

FOSSIL FISH FOUND ALIVE:

DISCOVERING THE COELACANTH

Carolrhoda Books; ISBN: 1575055368; \$17.95

Scientists were stunned at the discovery in 1938 off the coast of South Africa of this prehistoric fish species, previously thought extinct. Catch the excitement of the scientific process and get hooked on the mysteries that still baffle researchers today.

Woodson, Jacqueline

HUSH

Putnam; ISBN: 0399231145; \$15.99

Just as 13-year-old Toswiah Green is beginning to wrestle with her identity, it is pulled out from under her when her family is whisked into the Witness Protection Program. Ironically, what is supposed to save them tears them apart.

Worth, Valerie

Illustrated by Natalie Babbitt

PEACOCK AND OTHER POEMS

Farrar, Straus & Giroux; ISBN: 0374357668; \$15.00

Loose-limbed, lightly rhymed lines mingle with soft pencil drawings to illuminate the ordinary in this simple, sophisticated book of verse.

Fourteen and Up

Anderson, M.T.

FEED

Candlewick; ISBN: 0763617261; \$16.99

Titus's relationship with Violet challenges, and ultimately changes, his view of the world in a chilling futuristic dystopia where teens' thoughts are controlled by a constant computerized "feed" of information and consumerism.

Bechard, Margaret

HANGING ON TO MAX

Roaring Brook; ISBN: 0761315799; \$15.95

Sam's senior year in high school is enriched but also complicated by the existence of his infant son, Max. His candidly told story makes Sam's eventual decision about their future understandable, even as it breaks the reader's heart.

Chambers, Aidan

POSTCARDS FROM NO MAN'S LAND

Dutton; ISBN: 0525468633; \$19.99

A British teenager visits Holland to meet the woman whose family rescued his paratrooper grandfather during World War II. Alternating voices of young Jacob and the now elderly Geertrui weave a seamless tale of life and death, love and sexuality across three generations.

Desai Hidier, Tanuja

BORN CONFUSED

Scholastic; ISBN: 0439357624; \$16.95

Dimple Lala, New Jersey-born and bred of Indian parents, is at 17 determined to ascertain and affirm her identity. A romantic comedy, at once hilarious and poignant, about the pleasures and pitfalls of family, friendship, and love.

Frank, E.R.

AMERICA

Atheneum; ISBN: 0689847297; \$18.00

A heartbreakingly authentic voice narrates this wrenching, powerful, and unforgettable story of an abused teen searching for forgiveness and survival.

Freymann-Weyr, Garret

MY HEARTBEAT

Houghton Mifflin; ISBN: 0618141812; \$15.00

In a fresh, immediate first-person voice, 14-year-old Ellen reveals her unabashed love for her inscrutable brother and her infatuation for his best friend. A funny, honest, thoughtful, and upbeat exploration of the nature of love, family dynamics, and the ambiguities of sexual identity.

Gantos, Jack

HOLE IN MY LIFE

Farrar, Straus & Giroux; ISBN: 0374399883; \$16.00

A series of wrong turns and bad decisions lands the author in prison at age 20 for smuggling hashish. He's brutally honest about his motivations and his despair, and the hopeful ending—the beginnings of his career as a writer—is hard-earned.

Giblin, James Cross

THE LIFE AND DEATH OF ADOLF HITLER

Clarion; ISBN: 0395903718; \$21.00

A clearly written, well-documented, and richly detailed biography of one of the world's most dangerous and charismatic despots. Numerous period photos and first-person accounts enrich the informative text.

Hoffman, Mary

STRAVAGANZA: CITY OF MASKS

Bloomsbury; ISBN: 1582347913; \$17.95

A young cancer victim escapes his real-world fate by "stravagating" to an alternate land of danger and intrigue in this riveting tale of time travel between contemporary London and an exotic 16th-century fictional Venice called Bellezza.

Nye, Naomi Shihab

19 VARIETIES OF GAZELLE: POEMS OF THE MIDDLE EAST

Greenwillow; ISBN: 0060097655; \$16.95

Haunting phrases, memorable images, and impassioned pleas for peace and tolerance make this a timely collection of eloquent poems that reflect the poet's Arab American heritage and her unique perspective on the problems of the Middle East.

Oates, Joyce Carol

BIG MOUTH AND UGLY GIRL

HarperTempest; ISBN: 0066237564; \$16.99

A careless joke about blowing up the school makes unlikely allies of wise guy Matt Donaghy and saucy loner Ursula Riggs. A provocative exploration of contemporary issues of school violence and destructive rumor that deals ultimately with timeless matters of friendship and trust.

Partridge, Elizabeth

THIS LAND WAS MADE FOR YOU AND ME: THE LIFE AND SONGS OF WOODY GUTHRIE

Viking; ISBN: 0670035351; \$21.99

His wanderlust and womanizing made him hard to like, but singer and activist Guthrie led a life that's sure to fascinate today's fans of folk and alternative music. Photos and Guthrie's own original drawings add visual appeal.

Salisbury, Graham

ISLAND BOYZ: SHORT STORIES

Wendy Lamb; ISBN: 0385729707; \$16.95

Exotic Hawaii is the setting for 10 short stories and a poem on universal themes of growing up male. Colorful portraits of adolescent love and fear, courage and cruelty are rendered with humor, humanity, and authenticity.

Audiobooks Too Good to Miss

An Na

Narrated by Jina Oh

A STEP FROM HEAVEN

Listening Library; ISBN: 0807207225; \$30.00

Listeners gain new insights into the struggles of Korean immigrants Young Ju and her family in a poignant story of pain, bewilderment, and survival, well realized through this quiet reading.

Cooper, Susan

Narrated by Alex Jennings

SILVER ON THE TREE

Listening Library; ISBN: 0807206792; \$40.00

The last of *The Dark Is Rising Sequence* and Jennings, once again, turns in a stellar performance. Listeners will be carried away on the tides of the great—and final—battle between the light and the dark.

dePaola, Tomie

Narrated by the author

26 FAIRMOUNT AVENUE: BOOKS 1-4

Listening Library; ISBN: 0807205524; \$30.00

The author's boyish enthusiasm as he reads these snippets from his own childhood—from indignation at the movie version of *Snow White* to heartfelt concern at baby sister Maureen's pneumonia—gives these stories a special warmth.

Gaiman, Neil

Narrated by the author

CORALINE

Harper Audio; ISBN: 0060504544; \$18.00

When Coraline (not Caroline) ventures behind the locked parlor door of her new apartment, she encounters a world that is almost the mirror image of her own—but not quite. Gaiman's evenly paced reading of this nightmare story expands the disturbing atmosphere, made complete by the very sinister singing rats.

Geras, Adèle

Narrated by Miriam Margolyes

TROY

Listening Library; ISBN: 0807205990; \$40.00

The intrigue, drama, bloodshed, horror, and sexuality of the last days of Troy are presented here for older listeners in a stunning, fully voiced reading of extraordinary breadth and depth. The machinations of the Greek gods unfold as Troy's downfall is seen through the eyes of young people whose lives are irrevocably altered by the war.

Hoeye, Michael

Narrated by Campbell Scott

TIME STOPS FOR NO MOUSE

Listening Library; ISBN: 0807208477; \$32.00

Hermux, a watch-making mouse, becomes embroiled in a sinister plot when he attempts to rescue Linka Perflinger, a remarkable aviatrix and his heart's desire. Mystery and intrigue, daring deeds and dastardly doings—all wrapped up in an oddball community of small rodents—are made real by Scott's straightforward, partially voiced reading.

Ibbotson, Eva

Narrated by Patricia Conolly

JOURNEY TO THE RIVER SEA

Recorded Books; ISBN: 1402527365; \$54.00

A grand adventure story of life along the Amazon begs to be read aloud, and Conolly is certainly up to the task. Stern Miss Minton, sturdy Maia, the nasty Carter twins, and a host of other characters and events spring to life through this narration. A great choice for family listening.

Lewis, C.S.

THE MAGICIAN'S NEPHEW: THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA, BOOK 1

Narrated by Kenneth Branagh

Harper Audio; ISBN: 0694526193; \$24.00

Digory and Polly, swept out of London by the magic of a wicked magician, are faced with difficult choices of honor and honesty as they confront the evil Jadis and witness the creation of Narnia by Aslan. Branagh's fully voiced reading is spectacular in both power and nuance, breathing new life into Lewis's old story.

McKay, Hilary

Narrated by Julia Sawalha

SAFFY'S ANGEL

Listening Library; ISBN: 0807208248; \$30.00

Wry comedy and strikingly British wit highlight this story of adoption and displacement, as the madcap adventures and traumas of the Casson family unfold in spectacular fashion through a matter-of-fact reading. The understated narration heightens the humor and poignancy of Saffron's plight and the attempts of family and friends to settle her place in the world.

Nix, Garth

Narrated by Tim Curry

SABRIEL

Listening Library; ISBN: 080720563X; \$46.00

LIRAE: DAUGHTER OF THE CLAYR

Listening Library; ISBN: 0807205648; \$53.00

Books one and two of Garth Nix's trilogy of the battle against Death and ancient evil are brilliantly narrated by Tim Curry, whose fine sense of pacing and intonation renders comprehensible the vast complications of these high fantasy worlds.

Osborne, Mary Pope

Narrated by Scott Snively

AMERICAN TALL TALES

Audio Bookshelf; ISBN: 188333277X; \$17.95

Osborne's collection of stories about the super-sized heroes and heroines peopling the American pantheon is well served by this lively narration. His pacing perfectly captures the wild action of the rascallions of these adventures—each trying to outdo the other. Bucolic harmonica music supplies the perfect historical note to this surefire family pleaser.

Park, Linda Sue

Narrated by Graeme Malcolm

A SINGLE SHARD

Listening Library; ISBN: 0807207020; \$30.00

Park's Newbery Award-winning story of orphan Tree-ear's triumph over adversity in 12th-century Korea is perfect for telling aloud. Malcolm's British accent lends the necessary formality to this medieval tale that follows people and pottery to a satisfying conclusion.

Singer, Nickey

Narrated by Philip Franks

FEATHER BOY

Listening Library; ISBN: 080720725X; \$32.00

Bullies, disappointments, and fear rule Robert's life until a class assignment and a dying woman send him down a whole new path where old mysteries are solved and new friends are waiting. Franks' narration of this story-within-a-story enhances our sense of Robert's dread, urgency, and growing self-awareness as he puzzles over the very meaning of life.

Tingle, Rebecca

Narrated by Emily Gray

THE EDGE ON THE SWORD

Recorded Books; ISBN: 1402514573; \$54.00

Anglo-Saxon military tactics and history are brought to life in this coming-of-age story of Aethelflaed, daughter of the West Saxon King Alfred, as she deals with her betrothal to Ethelred of Mercia. Gray gives voice to this distant time, making the pronunciation of Saxon and Danish names easy on the ear. A fascinating story told by an expert reader.

Wiles, Deborah

Narrated by Judith Ivey

LOVE, RUBY LAVENDER

Listening Library; ISBN: 0807207187; \$30.00

Narrator Ivey's voice twangs like a banjo as she recounts the adventures of feisty Ruby Lavender, apprentice chicken-thief one minute, lonesome girl the next, in this very southern tale of growing up and growing wiser.

Wolff, Virginia Euwer

Narrated by Heather Alicia Simms

MAKE LEMONADE

Listening Library; ISBN: 080720689X; \$30.00

TRUE BELIEVER

Listening Library; ISBN: 080720692X; \$30.00

At age 14, LaVaughn longs to escape the poverty that surrounds her. When we meet her again in the second volume, her dreams are endangered by misunderstandings, a first crush, and disagreements with her mother. Simms approaches the two books, written in free verse, as pieces of music, gathering together the various strands into a melody laced with pain and hope.

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