

## WISH LIST

PB = Available in Paperback

HC = Available in Hardcover

RL = Reading Level

### Picture Books:

Andreae, Giles. *Giraffes Can't Dance*, illus. by Guy Parker-Rees. HC. 2001. RL = K+

Gerald is a giraffe who simply can't dance. Try as he may, his long, spindly legs buckle whenever he starts to boogie. Every year he dreads going to the Great Jungle Dance, until one night he finds his own special music.

Barber, Antonia. *Catkin*, illus. by P.M. Lynch. PB & HC. 1994. RL = K+

When a tiny, magical cat carelessly allows a young girl to be captured by the Little People, he must confront her captors and solve three cunning riddles in order to rescue her.

- - -. *The Mousehole Cat*, illus. by Nicola Bayley. PB & HC. 1996. RL = K+

In lilting and alliterative language, Barber tells the story of Mowzer the cat who saves a Cornish fishing village from starvation at Christmas. The Great Storm-Cat rages outside the snug little harbor and no boats can leave, so Mowzer agrees to accompany her own pet, the human fisherman old Tom, on a fishing venture ``for he was only a man. . . and men were like mice in the paws of the Great Storm-Cat." The story is cleverly told from the cat's point of view, with the oceanic Storm-Cat personified both in the text and in the blue-green swirls of Bayley's luminous paintings, which capture nuance, detail, motion, and emotion with energy and rhythm. Narrow bars decorated with sea motifs neatly frame the text in this elegant offering. (*School Library Journal* review)

Barrett, Judi. *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*, illus. by Ron Barrett. PB & HC. 1978. RL = K+

Life is delicious in the town of Chewandswallow where it rains soup and juice, snows mashed potatoes, and blows storms of hamburgers--until the weather takes a turn for the worse.

Base, Graeme. *The Discovery of Dragons*. HC. 1996. RL = Grades 4+

Base's latest is a hoot. Dragon lovers of various ages will find themselves guffawing as they peruse this handsomely illustrated compendium of dragon discovery--European, Asiatic, tropical. As Base (aka Rowland W. Greasebeam, B.Sc.) puts it, "*The Discovery of Dragons* can in fact be credited to just three people": thirteenth-century Viking Bjorn of Bromme, who communicates his adventures to his cranky cousin Olaf, who's back in Norway waiting in vain for Bjorn to join him for the Midsummer Rampage; Soong Mei Ying, intrepid daughter of a thirteenth-century Chinese silk trader; and Dr. E. F. Liebermann, whose letters to his fiancée, Miss Prunella Hapsburgerfries, span some 17 years in the mid-1800s. Each double-page spread contains a handsome painting of a dragon or dragons in their natural habitat and a letter written by the discoverer. At the bottom of the spread, a witty cartoonlike border follows the exploits described in the letter. And, of course, Greasebeam offers his own scientific commentary. The quick-eyed will spot the many tongue-in-cheek gags tucked within each spread. All in all, a visual and rib-tickling treat. (*Booklist* review)

- - -. *The Eleventh Hour: A Curious Mystery*. PB & HC. 1993 (reprint). RL = Grades 2+

This picture book is a puzzle mystery written in verse. When Horace the elephant turns 11, he decides to throw an elaborate birthday party and invites 11 friends. The animal guests arrive in

costume, and entertain themselves with a variety of activities until it is time to eat. When the 11th hour arrives, however, they are horrified to find that the entire feast has been eaten. All guests protest their innocence, and Horace comes through with sandwiches to save the day. What remains is for readers to discover the culprit. "The Inside Story," a sealed section of pages containing the solution to the mystery and explanations of the plethora of clues and puzzles in the book, follows the story. Intricate watercolor and acrylic paintings in vibrant colors crowd each page, assaulting readers with activity and detail. Both text and paintings are framed by black-and-white decorative borders that provide still more detail. After either breaking a code through careful observation (very, very careful, one must assume) or checking "The Inside Story," readers will uncover the identity of the villains. They are hidden everywhere: in the borders and in the body of the illustrations, but only very patient, persistent children will be motivated to detect every one of them. (*School Library Journal* review)

---. *The Sign of the Seahorse: A Tale of Greed and High Adventure in Two Acts*. PB & HC. 1992. RL = Grades 2+

As the curtain rises on this Gilbert and Sullivan-like coral reef tale, the beautiful Pearl Trout...and dashing Corporal Bert of the Soldiercrabs...are falling in love. But the amorous pair must part, as Bert and the Crab Army leave Reeftown to investigate the source of the pollution that is poisoning the area. The problem lies with the nefarious real estate schemes of the Grouper and his henchfish; ultimately, justice is meted out and the lovers are happily reunited. In Base's exemplary verse, perfect scansion and witty rhymes...blend to create a comic saga of Brobdingnagian proportions. Likewise, the dynamic, radiantly colored illustrations are jam-packed with droll underwater details--all that's missing in this merry marine metropolis is the Little Mermaid. Despite the book's evident craft, however, youngsters may have difficulty here: the tale is lengthy for a picture-book audience, and the artwork's largesse might prove overwhelming. The verse makes splendid read-aloud material, however; nightly recitations of the various scenes should keep both reader and audience immensely entertained (*Publishers Weekly* review)

Blake, Robert. *Akiak: A Tale From the Iditarod*. HC. 1997. RL = K+

It is Iditarod day. Fifty-six dog teams will race through 1,151 miles of rugged Alaskan terrain from Anchorage to Nome. Akiak knows these miles well. As lead dog, she has raced the incredible trail before, but never won. She is ten years old: if she is going to win, it must be now. When snow hurts her paw on the fourth day out, Mick, her musher, must leave her behind and continue the race without her. The rules say once a dog is dropped from the race, it may not rejoin the team. But Akiak doesn't know about rules. She is a lead dog, and her place is with the team. Nothing, not blizzards, not breaking ice, not the people out to catch her, will stop Akiak from catching up to her team. The question is, can the team still win?

---. *Togo*. HC. 2002. RL = Grades 1+

Togo wasn't meant to be a sled dog. He was too feisty and independent to make a good team member, let alone a leader. But Togo is determined, and when his trainer, Leonhard Seppala, gives him a chance, he soon becomes one of the fastest sled dogs in history! His skills are put to the ultimate test, though, when Seppala and his team are called on to make the now-famous run across the frozen Arctic to deliver the serum that will save Alaska from a life-threatening outbreak of diphtheria.

Bogan, Paulette. *Spike in the City*. PB & HC. 2000. RL = K+

When Spike, a charming black-and-white dog, takes his first trip to the city, he stays close to his owner, Shannon, not at all sure he likes it there. He howls when someone steps on his tail in the elevator, steps in gum, and is snubbed by a dog sporting a Mohawk haircut and spiked collar. Then he catches a Frisbee in the park and meets friendly dogs that introduce him to different aspects of city life. After a brief episode in which he thinks he is lost, the pup finds Shannon and

covers her with doggie kisses. The lively, engaging cartoonlike illustrations perfectly capture Spike's emotions, and observant readers and listeners will discover that Shannon is almost always nearby. The art and narrative flow neatly from one page to the next. (*School Library Journal* review)

- - -. *Spike in the Kennel*. HC. 2001. RL = K+

This third adventure featuring lovable pooch Spike is a humorous tale about his first overnighter at the kennel. The story is cute, but it's Bogan's expressive cartoon illustrations that steal the show. Spike's apprehension and sadness are apparent in his body language as he slinks away with the kennel attendant, ears and tail drooping, eyes pleading. Other pictures are equally expressive, depicting Spike's dramatic and often comical response to each new experience, including playing Frisbee with new dog pals. Though Spike is glad to see his owner the next day, he later dreams about his doggie escapades. This is a great choice for kids getting ready to spend a night away from home for the first time, or to reinforce the message that new experiences can be frightening, but they usually turn out just fine. (*Booklist* review)

- - -. *Spike in Trouble*. HC. 2003. RL = K+

Another enjoyable installment in a series of books about a lovable pet. When Spike's family discovers a steak missing from the barbecue, Dad's favorite boots chewed up, overturned trash cans, and a dug-up flowerbed, the dog is blamed and sent off to obedience school in disgrace. However, after he graduates with honors, the annoyances begin again, and Spike comes up with a plan to uncover the truth. Patiently, he hides and watches, and eventually finds out the identity of the troublemaker. Playful cartoon illustrations in bold colors capture the personality of the maligned but spunky canine. Children who search the pictures carefully will find clues to the culprit's identity. (*School Library Journal* review)

Breathed, Berkeley. *Edwurd Fudwupper Fibbed Big*. PB & HC. RL = Grades 1+

Edwurd's little sister comes to the rescue when Edwurd's humongous fib lands him in trouble with a three-eyed alien from another galaxy.

- - -. *Goodnight Opus*. PB. 1996. RL = Grades 1+

When his grandmother reads his favorite book for the 210th time, Opus the penguin departs from the text and gets carried away on a fantastical nighttime journey.

- - -. *Red Ranger Came Calling*. PB. 1997. RL = Grades 1+

While spending Christmas in 1939 with a well-meaning aunt, a young boy who does not believe in Santa Claus has an unusual experience that changes his thinking.

- - -. *Wish for Wings That Work: An Opus Christmas Story*. PB. 1995. RL = Grades 1+

Opus the penguin makes a Christmas wish that he might fly.

Browne, Anthony. *Gorilla*. HC. 2002. (reprint). RL = Grades 1+

This surreal story captures Hannah on the eve of her birthday and follows her escapades with a toy gorilla gift that comes to life...(excerpt from a *Publishers Weekly* review)

- - -. *Piggybook*. PB & HC. 1986. RL = 1+

A wickedly feminist tale if there ever was one, this is the story of Mrs. Pigott, domestic drudge to her husband and two sons. Tired of her lot, she leaves them for a few days, her only message

being a note on the mantel: "You are pigs." As the days pass and the menfolk fail miserably at fending for themselves, a unique transformation occurs: they become pigs in fact as well as in habit. Never fear, though; Mrs. P. returns, chores are divided up democratically, and peace and tranquility are restored. The feminist theme would bludgeon the plot were it not for the exceedingly clever illustrations: even before the porcine evolution of the males, there are hints of piggery everywhere in the father's lapel carnation, the boys' upturned noses, a piggy bank, a light switch. After the transformation, pigs turn up everywhere, including on the wallpaper (which was formerly a rose design). Browne also uses a sly before-and-after technique in his portrayal of Mrs. Pigott, who starts out as a drab, shadowy figure, face averted, while the males are brightly drawn in full light and full-face. After the victory for women's rights, however, Mrs. P. is drawn in an equal style. In terms of cleverness and style, this one brings home the bacon. (*School Library Journal* review)

- - -. *The Shape Game*. HC. 2003. RL = K+

The same family that had such an enlightening experience in Anthony Browne's *Zoo* is now going to an art museum, Mom's choice for her birthday treat. But wisecracking Dad and their two sons are skeptical about how much fun this trip will be, and they're not quite sure what to make of the art. ("What on earth is that supposed to be?" asks Dad.) But, with Mom's help, once the boys start really looking at the paintings, they begin to find what pleasures they contain. Most of the family leave with a new appreciation of art - Dad is just never going to get it - as well as a sketchbook. On the trip home, Mom teaches the boys - and readers - a drawing game, which one of her sons (this book's author) has been playing ever since.

- - -. *Voices in the Park*. PB & HC. 1999. RL = Grades 1+

Four people enter a park, and through their eyes readers see four different visions. As the story moves from the bossy woman to the sad man, from the lonely boy to the young girl whose warmth touches all she meets, the perspectives are reflected in the park's shifting landscapes and changing seasons. A superb book!

- - -. *Willy the Wimp*. PB. 2002 (Reprint edition). RL = K+

A chimp takes a body-building course in Browne's satirical look at the world of wimps and bullies.

- - -. *Willy's Pictures*. HC. 2000. RL = Grades 5+

Willy, a modest, lovable chimp hero, takes us on a tour of a series of pictures he seems to have painted, where "every picture tells a story." For anyone with a knowledge of art history these all look familiar, although the main characters are now chimps, gorillas, or other unusual folks, with strange items appearing in odd places. Brief captions add either fun or further mystery. All of the pictures are painted in realistic detail with many motifs from Browne's other books included. At the end, we are led through a door into a three-page foldout with tiny reproductions of the original art plus brief personal commentary by Browne.

- - -. *Zoo*. PB & HC. 1992. RL = Grades 1+

Who's looking in through the bars of the zoo cages? And who's looking out? That is what Browne's asking when he takes us along with a boy, his younger brother, mother, and father on a visit to the zoo . . . Browne is just as sly as ever. . . He brings the surreal and the real together to give us a world transformed. This time, however, he *challenges* us to examine not only the things we take for granted, but also the way we are. (Excerpt from a *Booklist* review)

Buehner, Caralyn. *Escape of Marvin the Ape*, Illus by Mark Buehner. PB & HC. 1992. RL = K+

Marvin the ape slips out of the zoo and finds he likes it on the outside, where he easily blends into city lifestyles.

---. *It's a Spoon Not a Shovel*, illus. by Mark Buehner. PB & HC. 1995. RL = K+

"It's a spoon, not a shovel," one mother tells her hungry child in this hilarious quiz on good manners. Young barbarians of all ages will have a great time seeing just how cool they are, as they answer 20 questions, each with wildly imaginative illustrations and multiple choice answers.

---. *Snowmen at Night*, illus. by Mark Buehner. HC. 2003.

Have you ever built a snowman and discovered the next day that his grin has gotten a little crooked, or his tree-branch arms have moved? And you've wondered . . . what do snowmen do at night? This delightful wintertime tale reveals all! Caralyn Buehner's witty, imaginative verse offers many amusing details about the secret life of snowmen and where they go at night, while Mark Buehner's roly-poly snowmen are bursting with personality and charm.

---. *Superdog: The Heart of a Hero*, illus. by Mark Buehner. HC. 2004.

Tired of being overlooked because he is so small, a big-hearted dog named Dexter transforms himself into a superhero.

Carlson, Nancy. *I Like Me!* PB & HC. 1988. RL = K+ (Local Author)

By admiring her finer points and showing that she can take care of herself and have fun even when there's no one else around, a charming pig proves the best friend you can have is yourself.

Other Nancy Carlson the library needs includes: *Bunnies and Their Hobbies*, *Harriet and George's Christmas Treat*, *Harriet's Recital*, *How About a Hug?*, *It's Going to Be Perfect*, *It's Not My Fault*, *Life is Fun*, *Louanne Pig in Making the Team*, *Louanne Pig in the Mysterious Valentine*, *Louanne Pig in Witch Lady*, *Loudmouth George and the Big Race*, *Loudmouth George and the New Neighbors*, *Loudmouth George and the Sixth-Grade Bully*, *My Best Friend Moved Away*, *My Family is Forever*, *Sit Still!*, *Smile a Lot!*, and *There's a Big Beautiful World Out There*.

Chandra, Deborah. *George Washington's Teeth*. HC. 2003. RL = K+

Now It Can Be Told: that severe, square-jawed look that the Father of Our Country flashes in his portraits reveals not only strength of character, but also his struggle to hide the fact that he was nearly (entirely, later in life) toothless by keeping a succession of spring-loaded false teeth in place. Drawing information from Washington's own writings, the authors deliver a double account of his dental tribulations: first in sprightly rhyme—Martha "fed him mush and pickled tripe, / But when guests came to dine, / He sneaked one of his favorite nuts. / Then he had only nine"—followed by a detailed, annotated timeline. Cole's (Larky Mavis, 2001, etc.) freely drawn, ruffled-looking watercolors document the countdown as well, with scenes of the unhappy statesman at war and at home, surrounded by family, attendants (including dark-skinned ones), and would-be dentists, all in authentic 18th-century dress. Contrary to popular belief, Washington's false teeth were made not of wood, but of real teeth and hippo ivory; a photo of his last set closes this breezy, sympathetic, carefully-researched vignette on a note that will have readers feeling the great man's pain—and never looking at his painted visage the same way again. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Child, Lauren. *I Am Not Sleepy and I Will Not Go to Bed*. HC. 2001. RL = K+

Charlie helps Lola get ready for bed, despite the tigers, whales, and other animals that serve as obstacles. Once again, Child tackles a common childhood conundrum with boundless imagination and zip.

- - -. *I Will Never Not Ever Eat a Tomato*. PB & HC. 2000. RL = K+

In this quirky, clever, fantastically funny story, Charlie uses his imagination to convince his little sister Lola -- who is a *very* fussy eater -- to eat. She won't eat her carrots -- until Charlie reveals that they are really "orange twiglets from Jupiter." She won't eat her mashed potatoes -- until Charlie explains they are "cloud fluff from the pointiest peak of Mount Fuji." And Lola will never -- not ever -- eat a tomato. Or will she? Children (and parents!) will recognize determined young Lola and cheer for inventive Charlie in this fabulous smorgasbord of fun!

- - -. *Utterly Me*, Clarice Bean. HC. 2003. RL = K+

Fans of Child's...irrepressible, impulsive picture-book heroineas well as kids who have not yet had the pleasure of making her acquaintance will devour her first chapter-book adventure. Liberally illustrated with collage art and told in a breezy, spontaneous first-person narrative that often weaves and winds around the pages, this makes an excellent first book for newly independent readers. (*Publishers Weekly* review excerpt).

Clements, Andrew. *Circus Family Dog*, illus. by Sue Truesdell. HC. 2000. RL = K+

Grumps is a gray and scraggly but well-loved circus dog. He moves slowly, if at all. The children roar with laughter when, instead of jumping through the flaming hoop, the old pooch just yawns, closes his eyes, and lies down until the clowns roll him offstage in a wagon. Then a new pup, Sparks, arrives and dazzles the audience with his tricks. Not to worry though-the aging canine proves he can still steal the show one last time. The combination of Clements's impeccable storyteller pacing and Truesdell's creative and whimsical cartoons create a reading and visual experience second only to actually being at the circus... (excerpt from *School Library Journal* review)

Climo, Shirley. *The Egyptian Cinderella*, illus. by Ruth Heller. PB & HC. 1989. RL = K+

In this version of Cinderella set in Egypt in the sixth century B.C., Rhodopes, a slave girl, eventually comes to be chosen by the Pharaoh to be his queen.

- - -. *The Irish Cinderland*, illus. by Loretta Krupinski. PB & HC. 1996. RL = Grades K+

Folklorist Shirley Climo retells an age-old Irish tale that is an unusual twist on the popular Cinderella story. Unlike Cinderella, Becan has large feet and a magical bull for a fairy godmother. He defeats a giant, slays a dragon, and rescues a princess. But before the princess can thank him, he runs off, leaving an enormous boot behind.

- - -. *King of the Birds*, illus. by Ruth Heller. PB & HC. 1997. RL = Grades K+

In this gleeful celebration of ornithological heterogeneity, birds gather to choose a king. But what virtue should distinguish the future king--its size, its speed, its color? Finally the convention settles on the ability to fly the highest. Just as the eagle appears to have wrapped up the contest, a hitchhiking wren loosens itself from the eagle's feathers and flaps a wee bit higher. Flowing naturally and economically, Ward's (Christmas Pageant) text also lends itself to playful voices for spirited read-alouds... (excerpt from *Publishers Weekly* review)

- - -. *The Korean Cinderella*, illus. by Loretta Krupinski. PB & HC. 1993. RL = Grades K+

Everyone knows the story of Cinderella, but not everyone knows the story of how Pear Blossom, the Korean Cinderella, is treated like a slave by her jealous stepmother and forced to perform three impossible tasks. With the help of magical creatures, Pear Blossom not only accomplishes the tasks, but she also becomes a nobleman's wife.

- - -. *King of the Birds*, illus. by Ruth Heller. PB & HC. 1997. RL = Grades K+

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- - -. *Persian Cinderella*, illus. by Robert Florczak. PB & HC. 1999. RL = Grades K+

A retelling of the traditional Persian tale in which Settareh, neglected and abused by her stepmother and stepsisters, finds her life transformed with the help of a little blue jug.

Cole, Babette. *Dr. Dog*. PB & HC. 1994. RL = K+

If disgusting habits like nose picking and breaking wind are off limits in books for kids, nobody told British author-artist Cole. And nobody told the Gumboyle family, each of whom develops some unpleasant health problem, often stemming from poor hygiene. When their physician, Dr. Dog, returns from a medical conference, he has his paws full of trouble: Kev, for example, has swapped his comb for a headful of lice; baby's got worms ("Never scratch your bum and suck your thumb"); Kurt, who's been smoking in the bicycle shed, has a "wicked cough"; and Granddad's "dangerous gases" (from baked beans and beer) are sufficient to send him sailing through the roof. The story framework is slight, and the biology isn't specific ("Here's a picture of your inside tubes"). But as Dr. Dog teaches the Gumboyles a little about healthier habits, kids will learn, too. The candor, evident in both the zany cartoon artwork and the text, is both disarming and funny. An easy way to make the medicine go down. (*Booklist* review)

Cooney, Barbara. *Miss Rumphius*. PB & HC. RL = K+

Seeking adventure in faraway places, Miss Rumphius fulfills her dream and then sets out to make the world more beautiful.

Cotton, Cynthia. *Snow Ponies*, illus, by Jason Cockcroft. HC. 2001. RL = K+

On a dreary, gray day, Old Man Winter goes out to his barn and releases his snow ponies to gallop across the cold, hard ground, bringing winter to everything they touch. As the magical ponies race each other across the fields, they nip and buck with playful energy. The other forest creatures leap out of their way. The fox snuggles into his warm den; a little squirrel huddles in the crook of a tree; the songbirds hide in the foliage of the holly bush. With each silent step, the snow ponies stir the whirling snowflakes and with each breath, the flakes dance through the air. As they tire, they slowly begin to walk toward the barn where Old Man Winter greets them and tucks them back into their stalls. He exits the barn and smiles at the white wonderland that his magic has created. Paintings full of quick brushstrokes of color layered on a softly muted landscape make this a beautiful as well as a magical read. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Cronin, Doreen. *Diary of a Worm*. HC. 2003. RL = K+

This is the diary . . . of a worm. Surprisingly, a worm not that different from you or me: He lives with his parents, plays with his friends, and even goes to school. But unlike you or me, he never has to take a bath, he gets to eat his homework, and because he doesn't have legs, he just can't do the hokey pokey -- no matter how hard he tries. Oh, and his head looks a lot like his rear end.

DeFelice, Cynthia. *Old Granny and the Bean Thief*, illus. by Cat Bowman Smith. HC. 2003. RL = K+

Old Granny is lonely, living way out in the country with no one to talk to. She's happy enough, though, as long as she has her beans. One night a thief climbs through the window of her little cabin while she's sleeping and steals her beans! Old Granny sets out to see the sheriff. Along the way, she meets an odd assortment of talking creatures: a snake, a pecan, a cow patty, a prickly pear cactus, and an alligator. Soon they've all befriended Old Granny, and joined forces to help her foil the thief in this humorous tale that glows with the bright, bold colors of the Southwest.

De Rico, Ul. *The Rainbow Goblins*. HC. RL = Grades K+

Since its first publication more than 15 years ago, the fantastic colors, amazing detail, and sweeping scope of *The Rainbow Goblins* have irresistibly invited tens of thousands of children to plunge their imaginations into its vivid world.

Drummond, Allan. *The Flyers*. HC. 2003. RL = K+

In 1903, a group of children on the beach at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, dream of flying and witness the first flight of the Wright brothers. Includes a chronology of milestones in the history of flight.

Fleischman, Paul. *The Animal Hedge*, illus. by Bagram Ibatoulline. HC. 2003. RL = K+

The versatile Fleischman presents a delightful tale of following one's dreams. A farmer "whose heart glowed like a hot wood stove with the love of animals" loses his land to drought. The grief-stricken farmer finds solace by trimming his hedge in the shape of animals. Each spring his hedge brings forth chicks, calves, and piglets that grow over the summer to adult topiary animals. When the farmer's three sons come of age and need to find trades, they trim the hedge into shapes that reveal their own hearts' desires. Ibatoulline, who seems never to do the same thing twice, offers watercolor-and-gouache illustrations, reminiscent of American folk art complete with crackle, perfectly evoking agricultural contentment. Deceptively simple endpapers and borders complement lavish spreads of the fantastic hedge. Joyous, peaceful, and lovely. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Funke, Cornelia. *Princess Knight*, illus. by Kerstin Meyer. HC. 2004. RL = K+

Violet is a young princess who wishes she could show the world that she is just as brave and strong as her brothers. But her strict father insists that she get married, and her brothers only mock her when she wants to be included in their fun. So Violet decides to use her intelligence and bravery to show everyone--once and for all--what she's made of. Disguising herself as a boy, Violet takes part in a knights' jousting tournament. When she wins the contest, she reveals her true identity--and wins the prize of freedom!

Edwards, Pamela Duncan. *Muldoon*, illus. by Henry Cole. HC. 2002. RL = K+

Muldoon is a precocious puppy who works for the West family. Or at least he thinks he does! Each day, he performs his chores, waking the family up, bringing the children to school and helping clean up after meals.

Fleming, Denise. *Buster*. HC. 2003. RL = K+

Buster the dog thinks his perfect life is spoiled when Betty the cat comes to live with him, until he learns not to be afraid of cats.

Fox, Mem. *Koala Lou*. PB & HC. 1988. RL = K+

A young koala, longing to hear her mother speak lovingly to her as she did before other children came along, plans to win her distracted parent's attention.

- - -. *Whoever You Are*. PB & HC. 1997. RL = K+

Fox has composed a simple refrain to celebrate human connections in this lovely picture book. "Little one, whoever you are," she explains, there are children all over the world who may look different, live in different homes and different climates, go to different schools, and speak in different tongues but all children love, smile, laugh, and cry. Their joys, pain, and blood are the same, "whoever they are, wherever they are, all over the world." (excerpt from *School Library Journal* review)

- - -. *Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge*. PB & HC. 1985. RL = K+

Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge, a rather small boy, lives next door to a nursing home in which resides Miss Nancy Alison Delacourt Cooper, his favorite friend, because she has four names as well. When Miss Nancy "loses" her memory, the intrepid Wilfrid sets out to find it for her.

Friedrich, Elizabeth. *Leah's Pony*, illus. by Michael Garland. PB & HC. RL = K+

Set in the Dust Bowl of the 1930s, this is the story of family love and the kindness of neighbors. Faced with the auction of their farm and equipment due to the drought, Young Leah decides to help her family by placing the first bid on her father's tractor, using the money she had received from the sale of her beloved pony.

French, Jackie. *Diary of a Wombat*, illus. by Bruce Whatley. HC. 2003. RL= K+

What, exactly, do wombats do all day? One enterprising wombat answers that question and a few others in diary form in French's...tongue-in-cheek picture book. After explaining his unique Australian heritage, the star of this volume paints a funny, if rather dull, picture of his daily routine. "Monday Morning: Slept./ Afternoon: Slept./ Evening: Ate grass./ Scratched./ Night: Ate grass." Things begin to perk up, however, when the wombat discovers its new human neighbors. Before long, the always-hungry creature is at their door begging for food (preferably carrots or oats), digging in their garden ...and turning his neighbors' belongings into scratching posts. Happily, the human family appears to take the antics of their adopted wild "pet" in stride (though the wombat sees things a bit differently "Have decided that humans are easily trained and make quite good pets"). Whatley...appears to relish this character study; he paints the chocolate-brown wombat in numerous poses and expressions-rolling, scratching, sleeping, chewing-on an ample white background. The artist gives the star expressive eyes without anthropomorphizing her. The often cuddly looking wombat may leave some readers envious of its languid lifestyle. (*Publishers Weekly* review)

Garrett, Ann. *Keeper of the Swamp*, illus. by Karen Chandler. PB & HC. RL = Grades 1+

In this atmospheric tale, a boy and his ailing grandfather pole a small boat out into the Louisiana bayou. When they suddenly come upon Boots, a female alligator the grandfather saved from poachers years ago, the boy wonders how he will face the danger in following his grandfather's wish: to care for this creature. First-time author Ann Garrett has fashioned a scary but satisfying tale with a strong environmental message. Karen Chandler's vivid illustrations, using both oil painting and computer imaging, perfectly capture the beauty and loneliness of this remote place and those — both the humans and the animals — who inhabit it.

Gay, Marie-Louise. *Stella: Star of the Sea*. HC. 1999. RL = K+

Sam is full of questions on his first trip to the seashore and his older sister has an answer for each one, except whether or not Sam will ever come into the water.

- - -. *Stella: Queen of the Snow*. HC. 2000. RL = K+

In their second adventure, Stella and her little brother, Sam, spend the day discovering the wonders of winter together. Playing in the snow, they explore the white-draped forest, pelt each other with snowballs, and wave their arms while lying down in the snow to make snow angels. Marie-Louise Gay's evocative watercolors bring alive the magic of a winter day, as Sam asks a million questions and Stella patiently answers them in a big sister kind of way.

Gerstein, Mordicai. *The Man Who Walked Between the Towers*. HC. 2003. RL = K+ (Winner of the 2004 Caldecott Medal)

A lyrical evocation of Philippe Petit's 1974 tightrope walk between the World Trade Center towers.

Gutman, Anne. *Gaspard and Lisa, Friends Forever* (Misadventures of Gaspard and Lisa Series), illus. by Georg Hallensleben. HC. 2003. RL = K+

Gaspard and Lisa have been friends for a long time . . . ever since last year. In *Gaspard and Lisa Friends Forever*, Gaspard recounts how he and Lisa met on the first day of school. At first, Gaspard wants nothing to do with her, especially after his classmates joke about how much they look alike, but then Gaspard's teacher forces him to choose Lisa for his relay team. Despite her unusual kangaroo-hop running style, Lisa wins the race for Gaspard's team and the rest is history--Gaspard and Lisa become friends forever!

- - -. *Lisa's Baby Sister*. (Misadventures of Gaspard and Lisa Series), illus. by Georg Hallensleben. HC. 2003. RL = K+

When Lisa's baby sister arrives, everyone makes a big fuss--everyone but Lisa. Grandma is all excited, Dad can't snap enough photos, Lisa's big sister Victoria has to show off the baby to all of her friends, and of course, Mom is always busy feeding the baby or changing her diaper. No one pays much attention to Lisa until she begins playing her flute very loudly just outside the baby Lila's room. And then one of Victoria's friends proclaims that this very cute little baby looks just like Lisa. It isn't long before Lisa becomes a proud big sister and even takes Lila to school for show and tell.

Hall, Donald. *I am the Cat, I am the Dog*, illus. by Barry Moser. HC. 1994. RL = Grades 1+

Distinguished poet Donald Hall and award-winning artist Barry Moser have teamed up to create a hilarious, affectionate portrait in contrasts of our companions, and often best friends, a cat and a dog. With evocative words and masterful paintings, they delineate the doginess and catlike qualities that everyone will recognize

Hest, Amy. *You Can Do It, Sam!*, illus. by Anita Jeram. HC. 2003. RL = K+

A warm gesture of generosity has Sam and Mrs. Bear up before dawn, baking, wrapping, and delivering small cakes in red gift bags to the sleeping neighbors' doors on their snowy street. Sam's exuberant impatience in the kitchen-"Come on, cakes . . . I can't wait . . ."-is tempered by his shy demeanor when encouraged to walk alone from mom's truck to each house with his savory treat: "Go, go, go! . . . You can do it, Sam." The satisfaction of gift-giving inspires confidence in this preschooler and a sense of security that's ultimately rewarded at home with his own tasty snack of cake and cocoa. Bright, colorful acrylics paint a dual scene of a toasty home life against a frosty clear morning. Endearing characters add to the sweetness and fulfillment that younger children will identify with, making this third Sam and Mrs. Bear story quite a delicious morsel. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Heyman, Anita. *Gretchen the Bicycle Dog*. HC. 2003. RL =K+

Gretchen, a spunky, lovable dachshund, tells the true story of how she loses the use of her back legs after an accident but triumphs over her disability with the help of a set of wheels.

Hoban, Russell and Lillian Hoban. Every library collection needs to have the Frances books! Books the library needs includes: *A Baby Sister for Frances*, *Best Friends for Frances*, *A Birthday for Frances*, and *Bread and Jam for Frances*. PB & HC. RL = K+

Hobbie, Holly. *Toot and Puddle*. PB & HC. 1997. RL = K+

Meet Toot and Puddle--two small, endearing pigs who are friends and as different as different can be. While Toot likes to travel to places unknown, Puddle prefers to stay home and revel in the joys of everyday life. Whimsical postcards capture the excitement of Toot's travels, while scenes of Puddle celebrate mundane moments spent in familiar confines.

Other wonderful Toot and Puddle books needed include: *A Present for Toot*, *Top of the World*, *I'll Be Home for Christmas*, *You Are My Sunshine*, and *Charming Opal*.

Howard, Arthur. *Cosmo Zooms*. PB & HC. 1999. RL = K+

All of the dogs on Pumpkin Lane are really, really good at something--all of them, that is, except Cosmo. But when he mistakenly lies down on a skateboard, his afternoon nap turns into a wild, thrilling ride. And Cosmo discovers that he does indeed have one very special talent. Arthur Howard's humorous, tenderhearted story and lively watercolors of Cosmo and friends are sure to zoom into readers' hearts.

Howe, James. *I Wish I Were a Butterfly*, illus. by Ed Young. PB & HC. 1994. RL = K+

A wise dragonfly helps a despondent cricket realize that he is special in his own way.

Huneck, Stephen. *My Dog's Brain*. PB & HC. 1997. RL = K+

Sally, the quintessential, incorrigible, adorable Labrador Retriever--is featured in a gallery of wryly playful woodcuts by her well-known artist master. Sally's human may be feted for his charming illustrations, but Sally--sleeping with her eye half open--is an immortal canine "everydog", whose pictures make a gift to warm every dog-lover's heart.

---. *Sally Goes to the Beach*. HC. 2000. RL = K+

Everyone loves a trip to the beach! Sally, a spirited black Labrador, sure does. When she arrives, she encounters new friends, new smells, new games, and, best of all, new adventures. Told from the dog's point of view and brought to life through charming and brightly colored woodcut prints, this endearing story of Sally's vacation is the perfect companion to a child's own trip to the beach or any new place.

Other Sally books the library would love to have include: *Sally Goes to the Farm*, *Sally Goes to the Mountains*, and *Sally Goes to the Vet*. *Dog Chapel* is another wonderful book.

Jacques, Brian. *Great Redwall Feast*, illus. By Christopher Denise. PB & HC. 1996. RL = Grades 1+

The creatures of Redwall--the abbey mice and hares, otters and moles--are planning a surprise feast in their dear Abbot's honor. There is cake to be baked, marchpane to be rolled. Stirring and sifting, smoothing and brewing. Can everything be finished in time? And how can the Redwallers keep

such a grand feast from their Abbot's keen eyes? Fans of Brian Jacques's beloved *Redwall* books will delight in seeing their old friends, brought to life by Christopher Denise's witty, cozy art.

- - -. *Redwall's Winter Tale*, illus. By Christopher Denise. HC. 2001. RL = Grades 1

In *A Redwall Winter's Tale*, a picture-book follow-up to *The Great Redwall Feast*, a troupe of traveling entertainers visits the abbey to commemorate the arrival of Snow Badger, Lord of Wintertide. But a fanciful bedtime story leaves Bungo the molebabe wondering what is real and what is fantasy. Christopher Denise's illustrations capture the waning sunlight and complement the alternating prose and verse. (*Publishers Weekly* review)

Jeffers, Suan. *My Pony*. HC. 2003. RL = K+

The pigtailed narrator of this enchanting story wants a pony of her own. Her parents tell her that a horse is too expensive and that they don't have enough room, so she draws pictures of a horse. Her art takes her to a magical world where she rides a beautiful, dappled silver horse through forests and clouds. When she returns from her journey, she is happy because her imaginary animal "waits just outside my window. Always"...this is a book that horse lovers will cherish. (*School Library Journal* review)

Jendresen, Erik and Joshua Greene. *Hanuman*, illus. by Li Ming. PB & HC. 1998. RL = Grades 1+

This retelling of one of India's most sacred texts, the Ramayana, recounts how the great monkey army helped save Princess Sita from a demon king.

Johnson, D. B. *Henry Builds a Cabin*. HC. 2002. RL = K+

How big does a home really need to be? When Henry decides to build a cabin for himself in the woods, he gets some help and a lot of advice from his friends. But Henry, being Henry, has his own ideas, and he sets about building his house as a bird builds its nest. As he adds everything he thinks his cabin needs, Henry's new home ends up being a lot bigger than it looks! Inspired by the life of Henry David Thoreau, and illustrated with nature-filled paintings by author and artist D. B. Johnson, *Henry Builds a Cabin* is a thoughtful and beautiful meditation on what a home can be.

- - -. *Henry Climbs a Mountain*. HC. 2003. RL = K+

Henry wants to climb a mountain, and nothing is going to stop him. Then Sam, the tax collector, puts him in jail for not paying his taxes. Henry refuses to pay to a state that allows slavery. But being locked up doesn't stop Henry. He still gets to splash in rivers, swing from trees, and meet a stranger. This bear, modeled on the real Henry David Thoreau, roams free.

- - -. *Henry Hikes to Fitchburg*. HC. 2000. RL = K+

While his friend works hard to earn the train fare to Fitchburg, young Henry Thoreau walks the thirty miles through woods and fields, enjoying nature and the time to think great thoughts. Includes biographical information about Thoreau.

Joose, Barbara. *Nugget and Darling*, illus. by Sue Truesdell. PB & HC. 1997. RL= K+

Nell and her best friend, her dog Nugget, practice magic tricks, play in the tree house, and cuddle up at night together, until Nugget finds a stray kitten, Darling, who seems to take Nugget's place and changes everything.

Katz, Karen. *The Color of Us*. PB & HC. 1999. RL = K+

Seven-year-old Lena and her mother observe the variations in the color of their friends' skin, viewed in terms of foods and things found in nature.

Keens-Douglas, Richardo. *Freedom Child of the Sea*, illus. by Julia Gukova. PB & HC. 1995. RL = Grades 2+

A young man dreams of harmony among people after he is saved from drowning by a strange boy, who is said to be the son of a pregnant slave woman who had been thrown overboard during the days of slave trading. A very powerful story.

Keller, Laurie. *Arnie, the Doughnut*. HC. 2003. RL = K+

Keller has composed a variation on a theme of *Charlotte's Web*. Only -- here's the goofball genius part -- she has compressed all that book's charm into one-fourth the space with three times the laughs (giggles mostly, but also snorts and snarfs), using as a main character not a pig named Wilbur but a doughnut named Arnie. A chocolate-covered doughnut with sprinkles, infectious optimism, a wide emotional range, surprising resourcefulness and a handy facility with a cordless phone.. (*The New York Times*)

Kellogg, Steven. *A Penguin Pup for Pinkerton*. PB & HC. 2001. RL = K+

Pinkerton's back-and his new adventures are as outrageous and entertaining as ever. The story starts on the title page, as the oversized pup sneaks off with an unattended football. When his owner, Emily, comes home from school full of enthusiasm and information about their latest topic of study (penguins and their remarkable parenting skills), the Great Dane promptly decides the football must be an egg. When the girl decides to take him and his "egg" to school for show-and-tell, pandemonium ensues. An irate Billy gets his ball back by using a cookie as a bribe. Then on the way home, the dog just happens to find another football (it's in use at the time) and leads football players and spectators on a merry chase through a nearby dog show. He winds up at the empty ice rink, cradling his new penguin egg. Luckily, Granny has made a penguin egg (complete with zipper) and both Pinkerton and Emily are pleased as punch with the baby "Pinkwin" it contains. Kellogg's cheerful, busy artwork offers plenty of extra laughs, from Rose the cat's unsentimental musings (she sees the penguins-and most other animals, including Pinkerton-as potential cat food) to the outraged faces of the people and pets whose lives are complicated by the pup's headlong dash. An engaging story, humorous illustrations, amusing details, and a combination of perennially popular topics make this a sure winner. (*School Library Journal* review)

Other wonderful Pinkerton books include: *Prehistoric Pinkerton*, *Rose for Pinkerton*, and *Tallyho, Pinkerton!*

Kern, Noris. *I Love You with All My Heart*. HC. 1998. RL = K+

Kern neatly skirts the I-love-you-more-than school of competitive affection by putting maternal love into properly absolute terms. Polo, a young polar bear, is told during his icy bath to be careful ``or you will worry your mother who loves you with all her heart." The expression perplexes Polo: How can he be loved with all his mother's heart? He polls his friends about their mothers' love....when Polo returns to his mother, he snuggles against her and asks if she loves him with all her fur. Yes, she says, and proceeds to count the other ways with her eyes that shine when she sees him, ``with my nose because you smell so sweet," with her paws and her back and her belly. Polo gets the message...a sweet-tempered story. (excerpt from *School Library Journal* review)

Kimme, Haven. *Orville: A Dog Story*, illus. by Robert Andrew Parker. HC. 2003. RL = Grades 1+

A big, ugly dog is happy to meet a farmer and his wife who decide to give him a name and a home, but not so happy when they chain him to the barn. All Orville can do is bark to tell the

world how unhappy he is, and the more he barks, the more he is left alone. But everything changes when Sally MacIntosh moves into the little house across the road and Orville falls in love. A beautifully crafted text that blends wry humor with the poignant twang of a country-and-western song is accompanied by dreamy, spare watercolor-and-ink illustrations for a fresh, original picture book that will resonate with anyone who has ever felt lonely or misunderstood.

Kitamura, Satoshi. *Comic Adventures of Boots*. HC. 2002. RL = K+

Three hilarious stories are told in graphic style in this book destined for multiple readings. The first episode finds the charismatic Boots without a place to nap on his usual wall. A bit of ingenuity and some fish biscuits are all he needs to get some room, though his scheme is certain to backfire. The second chapter has Boots enlisting the duck Madam Quark for swimming and flying lessons, with dubious results. And the pièce de résistance comes last in probably the most hilarious game of charades ever played by cats.

---. *Me and My Cat?* HC. 2000. RL = K+

Late one night Nicholas sees a witch enter his bedroom and hears her say some magic words. Then the witch leaves without even saying goodbye. When he wakes up the next morning, it doesn't take him long to realize something very strange is going on - especially when he pulls at his whiskers and watches himself go off to school. Whiskers? How confusing! That nasty witch cast the old switcheroo spell on him, and Nicholas has swapped bodies with his cat, Leonardo. Needless to say, quite an unusual day is in store for both Nicholas-inside-Leonardo and Leonardo-inside-Nicholas, and Satoshi Kitamura catalogues their misadventures in fantastically funny pictures.

Knowles, Sheena. *Edward the Emu*, illus by Rod Clement. PB. 1992. RL = K+

Tired of being an emu, Edward decides to try being like other animals at the zoo, but he soon discovers that being himself is the best after all.

---. *Edwina the Emu*, illus by Rod Clement. PB. 1996. RL = K+

In this sequel to the popular *Edward the Emu*, Edward and his mate Edwina are the proud parents of ten little emu eggs. Don't get depressed. I'll find a job, you stay on the nest, says Edwina to her stunned mate. And so Edwina sets out to find a job in this lighthearted offering from down under. Rhythmic, rhyming verse by Sheena Knowles and hilarious illustrations by Rod Clement make this an entertaining picture book that is sure to find a place in the hearts of readers everywhere.

Kopelke, Lisa. *Excuse Me!* HC. 2003. RL = K+

The plot of this literally explosive debut may be perfunctory, but the premise will set off fits of giggles. A mighty belcher from tadpole days, "Enthusiastic burping not only feels good, but also makes room for dessert!" Frog is finally expelled by his disgusted neighbors, then gains a new attitude after falling in with a gang of unrestrained, enthusiastic, unabashed burpers. Wearing a disguise, he arrives back in his hometown just in time to join a gassy symphony set off by an excess of Three-Beetle Chili-and as he now follows his elephantine eructation with a polite "Excuse me," he is welcomed back. In postmodern, Lane Smith-like illustrations, newcomer Kopelke depicts burps as cannon-like blasts emanating from the mouths of creatures that look less like frogs than knobbly, misshapen toads. Still, properly "loaded" young readers will be unable-or at least unwilling-to resist joining in the repeated indelicate choruses (especially just after lunch of centipede soufflés and mosquito pies, perhaps), and, of course, a lesson in proper manners is never amiss. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Kotzwinkle, William. *Walter, the Farting Dog*. HC. 2001. RL = K+

A gross but humorous story about a dog's incurable gas problem which ultimately saves the dog's family from getting robbed.

Lasky, Kathryn. *Marven of the Great North Woods*, illus. by Kevin Hawkes. PB & HC. RL= 1+

With a daughter's fitting reverence, Lasky tells the story of her father, Marven, who was sent away from his family at the age of ten to work in a logging camp. Duluth, Minnesota, is plagued with influenza in the winter of 1918, so Marven's parents send off their only son to the great north woods for the winter. As the train pulls away, Marven is in the middle of nowhere; he must ski five miles to meet his new employer. The young boy is given the job of bookkeeping and the daunting task of waking the lumberjacks who linger in bed in the morning. Marven grows close to Jean-Louis, the giant sleepyhead of the bunch. Hawkes's illustrations are as moving and effective as the story, especially when Marven appears in the snowy loneliness of the north country. Hawkes characterizes the burly lumberjacks with humor and style, cleverly contrasting them with Marven's childlike innocence...this book is a happy adventure that brims with rugged excitement. (*Kirkus* review)

London, Jonathon. *Eyes of Gray Wolf*, illus. by Jon Van Zyle. PB & HC. 1993. RL = K+

The simple, poetic text follows a restless Gray Wolf as he wanders through the northern winter night and the spectacular illustrations present a dramatic look at a beautiful, endangered animal. A list of organizations is provided for those readers who would like to help the endangered wolf.

- - - and Lanny Pinola. *Fire Race: A Karuk Coyote Tale of How Fire Came to the People*, illus by Sylvia Long. HC. 1993.

In this gracefully narrated, arrestingly illustrated myth originating from the Karuk people of Northwest California, the animals have no fire to keep them warm. Wise old Coyote devises a plan to steal the fire that the miserly Yellow Jacket sisters guard in their mountaintop home. Using his renowned skill as trickster, Coyote manages to purloin a burning piece of oak. Though the evil sisters follow in pursuit, Coyote and the other animals execute a flawless relay, transporting the ember back to their home ground, where a willow tree swallows it. Clever Coyote once again solves the dilemma, showing how to get fire from the willow by rubbing two of its branches together. London's tale unravels seamlessly, subtly revealing the diverse personalities of the animals and the merits of working together... (*Publishers Weekly* review excerpt)

Long, Melinda. *How I Became a Pirate*, illus. by David Shannon. HC 2003. RL = 1+

A witty tale that pirates of all ages will enjoy. Readers will not be able to resist jumping into pirate-speak as they enjoy the catchy rhyming verse and the bold and colorful illustrations.

Martin, Jacqueline Briggs. *Snowflake Bentley*, illus. by Mary Azarian. HC. 1998. RL = Grades 1+ (Winner of the 1999 Caldecott Medal)

From the time he was a small boy, Wilson Bentley saw snowflakes as small miracles. And he determined that one day his camera would capture for others the wonder of the tiny crystal. Bentley's enthusiasm for photographing snowflakes was often misunderstood in his time, but his patience and determination revealed two important truths: no two snowflakes are alike; and each one is startlingly beautiful. His story is gracefully told and brought to life in lovely woodcuts, giving children insight into a soul who had not only a scientist's vision and perseverance but a clear passion for the wonders of nature.

Mason, Cherie. *Wild Fox: A True Story*, illus. by Jo Ellen McAllister Stamm. HC. 1993. RL = K+

Have you ever touched the nose of a wild red fox? I have." With this pleasingly disconcerting opening, Mason leads readers into the wonder of her relationship with an unexpected backyard

visitant. When a maimed fox accepts her offering of chicken, Mason grows curious about her skittish forest neighbor and deliberates about how far she should intervene in saving his life.

Massie, Diane Redfield. *Baby BeeBee Bird*, illus. by Steven Kellogg. PB & HC. 2000 (reprint). RL = K+

First published in 1963 and long out of print, this delightful story has been reborn in a large format and newly illustrated edition. The beebee bird is new to the zoo and sings his song all night long, keeping the other animals awake. They concoct a plan to ensure nighttime quiet so they can sleep. The recasting of the original book from the tiny, petite size with simple cut-out animal shapes and a sweet little bird into this outsized, raucous rendering with an ungainly, gawkish, redheaded beebee retains its appeal and magnifies the playfulness. Kellogg's familiar style is a perfect foil for the frolicking turnabout tale. Creative use of large type exaggerates the noises, and the sounds match the big and tall animals' images and generate boisterous fun. This newly hatched effort is bound to invite enthusiastic participation. Welcome back, beebee bird! . (*School Library Journal* review)

McClintock, Barbara. *Dahlia*. HC. 2002. RL = K+

When Charlotte gets a delicate doll from her aunt Edme, she is not too happy. She tells the doll that she and Bruno, her bear, "like digging in dirt and climbing trees. No tea parties, no being pushed around in frilly prams. You'll just have to get used to the way we do things." Much to Charlotte and Bruno's surprise, Dahlia seems to like getting dirty while making mud cakes and racing wagons. But at the end of the day, Charlotte's aunt arrives for a visit and wants to see how Dahlia's doing . . . and Charlotte is in for another surprise. Honor book for the 2003 *Boston Globe/Horn Book* Award.

McFarland, Lyn Rossiter. *Widget*, illus. by Jim McFarland. HC. 2001. RL = K+

In this when-in-Rome story, a stray dog alters his canine ways to appease half-a-dozen grouchy cats. Widget, a scruffy Westie, wanders into a farmhouse where he finds "six cats, six warm beds, and six bowls of hot food." The well-fed cats glare at him. "I wish you could stay," says the grandmotherly caretaker, Mrs. Diggs. "But I'm afraid the girls just can't stand dogs." Widget utters a hopeful "Meow?" Thereafter, he adopts feline ways, until the inevitable emergency ("Mrs. Diggs... fell down. She didn't move") compels him to bark and save the day. The McFarlands, who imagined a teddy bear mimicking a bird in *The Pirate's Parrot*, once again depict an adaptable outsider. Widget's name aptly suggests an unspecific, versatile object. In Jim McFarland's pen-and-ink and watercolor wash illustrations, the ingratiating dog appears the same size as his adoptive sisters, with pointed ears and a scruffy, upraised tail; he even casts a cat-shaped shadow. This story line offers no surprises, but it gives a fond account of cross-species conciliation, and, at their best, the pictures of the hero attempting to adapt to his housemates' behavior hint at the sly wit of James Stevenson's artwork. (*Publishers Weekly* review)

Meddaugh, Susan. *Cinderella's Rat*. PB & HC. 1997. RL = K+

The telling is a perfect example of a successful fractured fairy tale, with switched point of view (told by the rat/coachboy), plays on words, and dramatic tension. The plot is short; the playfulness of story is tall; and the buoyant line drawings capture the whimsy. Just as her "Martha" books (Houghton) delight and entertain, this spoof tickles and surprises royally. (excerpt from *School Library Journal* review)

---. *Martha Speaks*. PB & HC. 1992. RL = K+

Problems arise when Martha, the family dog, learns to speak after eating alphabet soup!

---. *Martha Walks the Dog*. PB & HC. 1998. RL = K+

Martha the talking dog rescues the neighborhood from a bully dog with the help of a parrot.

---. *The Witches' Supermarket*. PB. 1994. RL = K+

While trick-or-treating on Halloween night, Helen and her dog Martha happen upon a very unusual supermarket -- for witches and cats only -- where they are most unwelcome!

Moore, Inga. *Six Dinner Sid*. PB & HC. 1991. RL = K+

Sid the cat lived at number one Aristotle Street. He also lived at number two, number three, number four, number five, and number six. Sid liked having six homes--he could eat six dinners a day and be petted by six different owners. Until he was taken to the vet not once . . . not twice, but six different times. Moore's illustrations are as charming and playful as her hero.

Newsome, Jill. *Night Walk*, illus. by Claudio Munoz. HC. 2002. RL = K+

House companions Flute the cat and Daisy the dog are of very different dispositions. Daisy awakens on the run, gulps down breakfast, and then pulls her master out the door as she bounds ahead on their walk. Flute savors her breakfast in the quiet house once Daisy is out, then leisurely strolls in the garden. But intrigued by Daisy's descriptions of creatures encountered in the park (a rabbit is "a giant mouse with long ears"), Flute tags along one evening on Daisy's night walk. Stray cats they encounter en route quickly intimidate the homebody kitty, but Daisy effortlessly chases the strangers away. When Flute's brave companion takes chase in the open park, the frightened cat shinnies up a tree. An owl's warning of trouble in the park sets the animals running, and Flute is caught up in the momentum, eventually discovering the source of the trouble to be Daisy, who has been cornered by a "huge wild cat." Then it's little Flute's turn to be heroic as she rushes to defend her pal. Munoz's work reflects a loving familiarity with canine and feline personalities. Children will recognize their own pets' postures among those pictured in his pleasing paintings, which find humor in the comfortable security of home as well as in the idea of the fearful unknown. (*Booklist* review)

Numeroff, Laura Joffe. Numeroff's books are always popular among children. The books the library needs

includes: *The Chicken Sisters*, *Chimps Don't Wear Glasses*, *Dogs Don't Wear Sneakers*, *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*, *If You Give a Moose a Muffin*, *If You Give a Pig a Pancake*, *If You Take a Mouse to the Movies*, *If You Take a Mouse to School*, *Sherman Crunchley*, *What Mommies Do Best / What Daddies Do Best*, and *What Grandmas Do Best / What Grandpas Do Best*.

Parson-Rossiter, Nan. *Rugby and Rosie*. HC. 1997. RL = K+

Rugby, the family's beloved Labrador retriever, finds himself unhappy with the new house guest, Rosie, a puppy brought home to be trained as a guide dog, but they soon become the closest of friends, until she has to leave to do the important work for which she is trained.

Perez, Amanda Irma. *My Diary from Here to There / Mi Diario de Aqui Hasta Alla*. HC. 2002. RL = K+ (Belpre Honor Award Winner)

One night young Amada overhears her parents whisper of moving from Mexico to Los Angeles where greater opportunity awaits. As she and her family journey north, Amada records in her diary her fears, hopes, and dreams for their lives in the United States. Amada learns that with her family's love and a belief in herself, she can make any journey and triumph over any change — here, there, anywhere.

Provinsen, Alice. *A Day in the Life of Murphy*. HC. 2003. RL=K+

In this clever canine caper, Caldecott Medalist Provensen...introduces an irrepressibly rambunctious-and chatty-narrator. Actually, he introduces himself: "Murphy-Stop-That is my name. I am a terrier. I bark./ I bark at anything and everything and all the time./ I sleep in a barn with a dumb cat and a dumb hound,/ and a lot of other dumb farm animals." In a perky, stream-of-consciousness monologue, the pooch describes his daily doings, beginning with scouring the kitchen for bits of breakfast ("Leftovers. Scraps./ The floor! The floor. Nose over every inch"). Provensen's animated oil paintings, filled with playful particulars, follow a kind of time-lapse progression as the hero enters the house through the doggy door and follows various scents until he's shooed back out the way he came, with the assistance of a broom. After licking the leaky pipe under the kitchen sink and savoring the stove's "glorious sounds and smells," Murphy hears honking outside, beckoning him for a car trip. Alas, the pet dislikes both the ride ("Snivel./ Grumble./ Groan./ Are we there yet?") and the destination-the vet ("Oh-oh, it's my turn to be/ pinched poked prodded. Doesn't hurt, but get me out of here!"). A spread of the waiting room depicts an array of furry friends from pups to elderly dogs to a wary-looking cat. Provensen's animated oil paintings follow the amiable, wide-eyed dog through the ups and downs of his day, which ends on a pleasant, predictably noisy note. (*Publishers Weekly* review)

Recorvits, Helen. *My Name Is Yoon*, illus. by Gabriela Swiatkowska. HC. 2003. RL = K+

"My name is Yoon. I came here from Korea, a country far away," begins Recorvits's...first-person narrative, as noteworthy for what it leaves out as for what it includes. Swiatkowska's...opening spread similarly conveys a sense of starkness, with a landscape of rolling hills and towering trees in small clusters; the serene narrator appears in a white dress. With a turn of the page, readers see Yoon dwarfed by the seemingly endless checked flooring of her new American house. She sits at a large white table where her father teaches her to write her name in English ("I did not like YOON. Lines. Circles. Each standing alone. My name looks happy in Korean. The symbols dance together"). At school, Yoon refuses to write her name. Instead, she fills her paper with other words she learns from the teacher, such as cat. "I wrote CAT on every line. I wanted to be CAT.... My mother would find me and cuddle up close to me." Yoon's words betray her sadness and insecurity at relinquishing some of her Korean identity, while Swiatkowska's painterly artwork translates the girl's fantasies. A close-up of Yoon's face shows feline ears protruding from her jet-black hair, while in the background, a real cat balances on a window sill. A turning point comes when a classmate offers Yoon a cupcake, and the heroine imagines herself as one; her round face a leafed cherry atop the pastry as she floats above the classroom. Yoon may be new to America, but her feelings as an outsider will be recognizable to all children. (*Publishers Weekly* review)

Rey, H.A. Curious George is a character every child and adult should be familiar with and we don't have any of these books in our collection! Other books needed by H.A. Rey include: *Find the Constellations* and *The Stars: A New Way to See Them*.

Robertus, Polly M. *The Dog Who Had Kittens*, illus. by Janet Stevens. PB & HC. 1991. RL = Grades 1+

Baxter the Basset Hound comes to the aid of some kittens when their mother disappears one afternoon.

Root, Phyllis. *Kiss the Cow*, illus. by Will Hillenbrand. PB & HC. 2000. RL = K+

Annalisa, the most curious and stubborn of Mama May's children, disobeys her mother and upsets the family cow by refusing to kiss her in return for the milk she gives. Teaches curiosity and its consequences (both good and bad) without being overly didactic. Wonderful illustrations.

Schachner, Judith Byron. *Skippyjon Jones*. HC. 2003. RL = 1+

Any cat who creates a Chihuahua alter ego for himself, complete with costume, theme song, and parallel universe gets our vote. He gets the job done, yes indeed-o!

Schimmel, Schim. *Children of the Earth Remember*. PB & HC. 1997. RL = K+

Out of love and concern for their planet, the animals and people of Mother Earth work together to protect the natural world.

Seuss, Dr. Dr. Seuss books are always popular and we only have a fraction of his books! The books the library already has include: *The Butter Battle Book*; *The Cat in the Hat*; *The Foot Book*; *Fox in Socks*; *Gerald McBoing Boing*; *Great Day for Up*; *Green Eggs and Ham*; *Happy Birthday to You!*; *Hooray for Diffendoofer*; *Hop on Pop*; *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*; *Marvin K. Mooney Will You Please Go Now!*; *Oh the Thinks You can Think!*; *On Beyond Zebra*; *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish*.

Spinelli, Eileen. *Sophie's Masterpiece: Spider's Tale*, illus. by Jane Dyer. HC. 2001. RL = K+

Sophie's no ordinary house spider. She's an artist; and every web she spins is more wondrous than the one before. But don't mention that to the guests at Beekman's Boardinghouse, because they don't like spiders. No one there wants anything to do with Sophie or her magnificent creations — no one except the woman on the third floor. She's a new mother "weaving" something herself; and when she runs out of yarn, Sophie knows the time has finally come to create the masterpiece of a lifetime.

Stanley, Elizabeth. *The Deliverance of Dancing Bears*. HC. 1995. RL = Grades 1+

A 1995 Australian Picture Book of the Year honor winner. In this thought-provoking and sincere story, Stanley presents the plight of the dancing bears of Turkey and Greece whom she first witnessed in 1979. Constructing a "contemporary fable" from her experience, the author tells the story of a captive bear whose dreams of freedom sustain her, even while being forced to perform in a Turkish marketplace by a cruel and angry keeper. During the quiet hours when she is confined to her cage, the bear imagines a different life in which she is free to wander through mountain streams and sleep lazily with her cubs. The degradation continues until the day an old peasant with a generous and empathetic spirit offers to buy her, releasing her from her chains. The somber and meaningful tone of the text underscores the author's purposeful intent without over-sentimentalizing. Large-scale, highly textured illustrations in a rich palette of purples, blues, red, and gold effectively convey the bear's hardships as well as her dreams. An author's note explains that the animals are now protected; even so, this book provides a compelling springboard toward many important topics including cruelty to animals, freedom versus captivity, and the sustaining power of dreams. (*School Library Journal* review)

Stevens, Janet. *Tops and Bottoms*. PB & HC. 1995. RL = K+

Hare solves his family's problems by tricking rich and lazy Bear in this funny, energetic version of an old slave story. With roots in American slave tales, *Tops & Bottoms* celebrates the trickster tradition of using one's wits to overcome hardship.

Taback, Simms. *Joseph had a Little Overcoat*. PB & HC. RL = K+ (Winner of the 2000 Caldecott Medal)

Joseph had a little overcoat, but it was full of holes--just like this book! When Joseph's coat got too old and shabby, he made it into a jacket. But what did he make it into after that? And after that? As children turn the pages of this book, they can use the die-cut holes to guess what Joseph will be making next from his amazing overcoat--while they laugh at the bold, cheerful artwork and learn that you can always make something, even out of nothing.

Teague, Mark. *The Secret Shortcut*. PB & HC. 1996. RL = K+

Wendell and Floyd become convinced that the shortcut over the fence will get them to school on time, but instead they begin a wild race through the jungle, trying to elude the crocodiles and avoid the quicksand.

Timberlake, Amy. *The Dirty Cowboy*, illus. by Adam Rex. HC. 2003. RL = K+

A cowboy decides to take his yearly bath, so he heads to a nearby river, where he orders his scruffy dog to guard his clothes. When the cowboy returns from the river, he's so clean that the dog doesn't recognize him. The two get into an extended fracas, leaving the cowboy as filthy as ever and the clothes in tatters. Naked and dirty, the cowboy finally returns home, the dog trotting beside him. For some children, the appeal of this story is in the clever composition of the pictures that manages to conceal the cowboy's private bits. Rex's rich paintings add sparkle to the story's dramatic telling with the attention to detail and humor that may remind some grownups of Norman Rockwell's early work. A simple, slapstick tale that is sure to elicit some giggles. (*Booklist* review)

Tucker, Kathy. *Do Pirates Take Baths?*, illus. by Nadine Bernard Westcott. PB. 1997. RL = K+

A rhyming Q & A format recounts the habits of a group of rowdy pirates, who dine on seaweed and don't wear underwear. (*Publishers Weekly* review)

Waddell, Martin. *Owl Babies*, illus. by Patrick Benson. PB & HC. 1992. RL=K+

A beautifully illustrated story about a family of owl babies who wake up to find their mother gone and sit in distress, not knowing where she is, until their mother returns, reassuring her family that she will always return to them no matter where she roams.

Wargin, Kathy-Jo. *V Is for Viking: A Minnesota Alphabet* (Discover America State by State. Alphabet Series), illus by Karen and Rebecca Latham. HC. 2003. RL = K+

The letters of the alphabet are represented by words, set in short rhymes with additional information, relating to the state of Minnesota.

Weaver, Katie MacAllaster. *Bill in a China Shop*, illus. by Tim Raglin. HC. 2003. RL = K+

Bill the bull, who loves to collect china, finally finds a china shop without a "keep out" sign directed at himself. But he soon finds out that he is not quite as welcome as he had hoped, and in his worry, he breaks nearly everything in the store, much to the slimy shopkeeper's chagrin. But three gray-haired ladies totter in and save the day by paying for the damage and the little cup that Bill so desperately wanted and they all become fast friends. A delightful rhyming picture book illustrated with intricate detail and Victorian charm that celebrates a triumph over prejudice.

Williams, Margery. *The Velveteen Rabbit*, illus. by David Jorgensen. PB & HC. 1985. RL = K+

There are numerous illustrated versions of this timeless classic, but Jorgensen's illustrations are by far the best!

Wilson, Karma. *Bear Snores On*, illus. by Jane Chapman. HC. 2001. RL = K+

Wilson has crafted a story that is just right for chilly winter nights. Snow is falling and Bear is sound asleep in his warm, dark cave. Trying to escape the weather, Mouse crawls inside and builds a fire. Seeing the crackling blaze, Hare hops in to share some popcorn and black tea. One by one, other woodland creatures join the impromptu party, each bringing a contribution. Through it all "-the bear snores on" until, finally, a small fleck of pepper makes him sneeze. Once he is awake, his gruff reaction to the merrymaking is not exactly welcoming, but he quickly comes around... (excerpt from a *School Library Journal* review)

- - -. *Bear Wants More*, illus. by Jane Chapman. HC. 2003. RL = K+

When spring comes, Bear wakes up very hungry and is treated to great food by his friends.

Yolen, Jane. *The Flying Witch*, illus. by Vladimir Vagin. HC. 2003. RL = K+

Flying her mortar and pestle, the witch with the long iron nose scours the countryside for plump young children to eat. But will she be a match for the fiesty little girl she hopes to throw into her soup? *New York Times* best-selling author Jane Yolen has created a clever, original story based on hundreds of traditional Russian folktales about the famed scary old witch.

- - -. *How Do Dinosaurs Get Well Soon?*, illus. by Mark Teague. HC. 2003. RL = K+

Kids aren't the only ones who get sick. The dynamic dinos who first appeared in *How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight?* (2000) aren't feeling well, and it's up to their parents, doctors, and nurses to help them mend. The jaunty text begins by cataloging a litany of things a dinosaur might do when it has the flu: "Does he drop dirty tissues all over the floor? Does he fling all his medicine out of the door?" And what if the dino needs to go to the doc? "Does he drag all his feet till his mom is in shock?" The rhyme is basic but effective as it explains what a dinosaur does to get better. Teague, always tops when it comes to mining humor in art, does a great job here. The oversize dinosaurs, vividly colored and dramatically drawn, fill up the room, dwarfing the helpful adults who are trying to bring aid and comfort. The book also gives a nod to kids fascinated by the creatures: each dinosaur's name is tucked somewhere into the picture. The large paintings and short text make this an excellent choice for story hours, but the book may be most enjoyed one on one, especially by listeners experiencing a few coughs and sniffles of their own. (*Booklist* review)

- - -. *How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight?*, illus. by Mark Teague. HC. 2000. RL = K+

Set to a lilting bedtime beat, this rollicking rumpus of a tale ups the humor ante in a familiar scenario by substituting dinosaurs for children: "How does a dinosaur say good night when Papa comes in to turn off the light?" In a series of snappy lines, Yolen ... highlights a variety of postponement antics, some familiar (moping, sulking and demanding "one book more!"), some of a distinctly dinosaur variety--"Does a dinosaur slam his tail and pout? Does he throw his teddy bear all about?" Teague makes hay with the text, and as always his illustrations are a flurry of sly madcap inspiration. He chooses the winged Pteranodon (spelled out in ABC blocks on the bedroom floor) as the character who throws his teddy bear while flying about the room; for "Does he swing his neck from side to side" it's the snake-headed Apatosaurus who does the swinging. Under his sure direction, the sight gag never grows stale, and the sight of a T-Rex puckering up for a kiss, or an enormous Stegosaurus crammed into a tiny bed and daintily turning off the light switch with the tip of his tail, is sure to elicit giggles. As the endpapers reveal, there's a cast of 10 dinosaurs featured here, and sharp eyes will enjoy spotting their proper names tucked into each illustration. This rib-tickling bedtime fare packs plenty of appeal. (*Publishers Weekly* review)

Zimmerman, Andrea Griffing. *My Dog Toby*, illus. by True Kelley. HC. 2001. RL = K+

Toby is a good dog. He has long droopy ears and big brown spots. Every day he waits by the window until his beloved owner comes home from school. They play outside and run around the yard. Toby even sleeps by her side at night. He's a kid's best friend. All the other dogs on the block know how to sit, roll over, and fetch. But Toby doesn't know how to do any of those things. Will he ever, *ever* learn to do a trick? With some patience and lots of love, *anything* is possible.

### **Beginning Reader / Chapter Books:**

Bang-Campbell, Monika. *Little Rat Sets Sail*, illus. by Molly Bang. PB & HC. 2002. RL = Grades 2+

This beginning chapter book illustrated by Molly Bang and written by her daughter introduces Little Rat as she learns to sail. Though afraid of the water, Little Rat does well at sailing school, and she somehow manages to absorb the sailing life that surrounds her, which is reflected in the paintings on the walls of her house and in scenes of the seaside environment in which she lives. Buzzy Bear, Little Rat's instructor, lets her sail with him, which comforts her and allows her to acclimate at her own speed. Little Rat doesn't look like the traditional protagonist, but she definitely exemplifies bravery. Bang's illustrations, in pencil, gouache, and watercolor (with some charcoal and chalk dust), often depict Little Rat as a tiny soul in a big, big world, which emphasizes the spirit of the character. The sailing terminology adds credibility to the story. (*Booklist review*)

Bechtold, Lize. *Buster & Phoebe: The Great Bone Game*. HC. 2003. RL = Grades 1+

The title character of *Buster: The Very Shy Dog* returns in *Buster & Phoebe: The Great Bone Game* by Lize Bechtold, geared to those just starting to read on their own. Phoebe, an adult dog, teaches Buster all about dog bones—about collecting them, marking them and even training them. Although Buster is just a puppy, he learns a much more important lesson on his own—about friendship. (*Publishers Weekly review*)

---. *Buster: the Very Shy Dog*. PB & HC. 1999. RL = Grades 1+

Bechtold makes a sturdy debut with these three episodes in the life of a big dog with scrawny self-esteem. Although he is intimidated by strangers and totally unable to catch thrown objects, Buster discovers that he's a good listener, a talent that comes in handy when there's an escaped hamster to track down, a gang of nocturnal garbage-pail plunderers to catch in the act, or a lonely human to comfort. Slinking anxiously through airy, simply drawn scenes, the pop-eyed, charcoal-colored pooch looks ready to bolt at the drop of a hat, and while he finds a measure of courage at last in the company of his outgoing canine companion, Phoebe, readers will want to give him a reassuring hug. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Geras, Adele. *Cats of Cuckoo Square* series. PB. RL= 2<sup>nd</sup> grade+

An enjoyable illustrated series beginning readers will enjoy – particularly if they like cats!

Levy, Elizabeth. *A Hare-Raising Tale: A Fletcher Mystery*, illus. by Mordicai Gerstein. PB & HC. 2002. RL = Grades 2+

Jill and Gwen from the popular "Something Queer" series (Hyperion) now appear in a beginning chapter book. The story centers around Jill's dog, Fletcher, who tells the story. There are many things that set him apart from your average basset hound: his best friend is a flea named Jasper and the color pattern of his fur looks like a map of the world. When the girls decide to take Fletcher to school for their geography lesson, he is blamed when the class's pet rabbit is suddenly missing. If he can't prove his innocence, it's back to the pound. Once again, Levy weaves a mystery that will capture chapter-book audiences. Full-page, black-and-white cartoons plus spot art capture the classroom antics and the pup's antics and dilemma. (*School Library Journal review*) Other *Fletcher Mystery Series* would also be appreciated!

Van Lann, Nancy. *Busy, Busy Moose*, illus. by Amy Rusch. HC. 2003. RL = Grades 1+

It is fall, and Beaver must make his winter house. Squirrel must hide acorns. Rabbit must gather bark and twigs. But Moose has nothing busy to do. How can Moose feel useful and important too? Set in the secure world of the woods, these gentle stories for beginning readers reveal the promise of enterprise in us all, as the winsome Moose sets out to find just what a Moose is good at doing. (Companion to *Moose Tales*)

- - -. *Moose Tales*, illus. by Amy Rusch. PB & HC. 1999. RL = Grades 1+

Long-legged Moose has good friends in the woodland: Beaver, Squirrel, Rabbit, and Mouse. Together they count snowflakes, help one another wiggle out of fixes, and make practically perfect creatures out of snow. Set in the secure world of the woods, these ten, funny stories for beginning readers celebrate friendship and cooperation.

### **Poetry:**

Schwartz, Betty Ann (ed). *My Kingdom for a Horse: An Anthology of Poems about Horses*, illus. by Alix Berenzy. HC. 2001. RL = Grades 1+

Joyous colts gallop through snowy fields. Mystical white horses canter in the moonlight. From the wonder of a newborn foal to the quiet grace of a beloved mare at pasture, horses capture our imagination like no other animal can. A celebration of horses in all their majesty, this collection of poems will inspire any young reader who has ridden a horse — or has dreamed of riding one.

### **Young Readers Fiction:**

Avi. *The Good Dog*. HC & PB. 2001. RL=3<sup>rd</sup> grade+

A story with a decidedly canine point of view that will delight dog lovers! (excerpt from *School Library Journal* review)

Baglio, Ben (et al). *Animal Ark* series. PB. RL= 3<sup>rd</sup> grade+

Heartwarming animal rescue stories.

- - -. *Animal Ark Pets* series. PB. RL= 2<sup>nd</sup> grade+

More heartwarming animal rescue stories that beginning readers can enjoy!

Byng, Georgia. *Molly Moon's Incredible Book of Hypnotism*. PB & HC. 2003. RL = Grades 4+

Molly Moon has spent her entire life in a miserable orphanage run by the hairy, snaggletoothed Miss Adderson. But when she finds a mysterious book, Molly discovers an extraordinary talent -- she can hypnotize anyone! Accompanied by Petula the pug, Molly hypnotizes her way to New York and Broadway stardom. But hot on her trail is the sinister professor, who is determined to use Molly to stage the crime of the century...

- - -. *Molly Moon Stops the World*. HC. 2004. RL = Grades 4+

Stop! You are about to embark on an incredible journey to Hollywood with the dazzling young hypnotist Molly Moon. But be warned: this trip is very dangerous, evil lurks on every page. Molly Moon is back -- and this time she's hypnotizing her way to the Academy Awards in Los Angeles. Along with Rocky and Petula the pug, Molly is tracking the sinister activities of American billionaire Primo Cell, who wants to become president and take over the world. He has all the Hollywood celebrities in his power, but Molly Moon has an amazing power of her own, which even she doesn't know about. . .

Casanova, Mary. *Stealing Thunder*. PB & HC. RL = 3rd grade+ (Local Author)

Libby has always wanted a horse of her own, but riding and caring for her neighbor Jolene Porter's horse, Thunder, has been the next best thing. Everything changes once Jolene leaves her husband and Libby discovers that Mr. Porter has been abusing the animal. With the help of her new friend, Griff, she decides to steal Thunder to ensure his safety. However, Mr. Porter has plans of his own that may mean trouble for the youngsters. This fast-paced adventure works because of Casanova's precise and evocative descriptions that weave their way around a compelling story of intrigue and heroism. Libby's love for horses is nicely juxtaposed against Porter's desire to rid himself of the burden of owning the stable, to the point of setting his barn on fire in a ploy to collect the insurance money. It is Libby's quick thinking and levelheadedness that help save the animals. She and Griff are personable characters whose friendship is one of trust and loyalty. Libby is a winning heroine who will do anything to save Thunder. Her actions speak louder than words, and she stands up for what she believes in a world in which adults think they know what's best. In a totally satisfying ending, the girl is united with the animal she loves. (*School Library Journal* review)

Couloumbis, Audrey. *Getting Near to Baby*. PB & HC. 1999. RL = Grades 4+ (2000 Newbery Honor Book)

After their baby sister dies, Willa Jo and Little Sister's family falls apart. Their mother sinks deep into an unshakable depression, so the two older girls are sent to live with their strict Aunt Patty and her husband. Since Little Sister refuses to talk, Willa Jo has to try and make things right in their new home, but she can't stop missing her mother or the life the four of them had before Baby died. Aunt Patty is trying as hard as she can, but she doesn't really understand what Willa Jo and Little Sister are trying to deal with-until the morning the two girls climb up to the roof of her house, and stay there. Audrey Couloumbis's masterful debut novel brings to mind Karen Hesse, Katherine Paterson, and Betsy Byars's *The Summer of the Swans*-it is a story you will never forget.

Coville, Bruce. *Glory of Unicorns*. PB & HC. 2000. RL = Grades 4+

Compiled by the author of the Unicorn Chronicles, these twelve tales find unicorns in far-reaching times and places, from the fantastical world of Luster and the mystical land of ancient China to modern-day America.

Crossley-Holland, Kevin. *The Seeing Stone* (Arthur Trilogy, Book One). PB & HC. 2001. RL = Grades 4+

It is 1199 and young Arthur de Caldicot is waiting impatiently to grow up and become a knight. One day his friend's father, Merlin, gives him a shining piece of obsidian, and his life becomes entwined with that of his namesake, the Arthur whose story he sees unfold in the stone. In this many-layered novel, King Arthur is seen as a mysterious presence influencing not just one time and place, but many. The 100 short chapters are almost like snapshots, not only of the mythic tales of King Arthur, but the earthy, uncomfortable reality of the Middle Ages. Written in the direct, open voice of a real boy living in a time of uncertainty about the future, this story touches on the issues of war and peace, social inequity, religion, reason, and superstition. When book three comes out (*King of the Middle March*) the library would appreciate a copy of it as well.

Cushman, Karen. *The Midwife's Apprentice*. PB & HC. 1995. RL = Grades 5+ (1996 Newbery Award Winner)

In medieval England, a nameless, homeless girl is taken in by a sharp-tempered midwife, and in spite of obstacles and hardship, eventually gains the three things she most wants: a full belly, a contented heart, and a place in this world.

Dubowski, Cathy East and Mark. *A Horse Named Seabiscuit*, illus. by Mark Rowe. PB. 2003. RL

= Grades 1+

An introduction to the life and career of Seabiscuit, the race horse who set sixteen track records and won more prize money than any other horse.

Funke, Cornelia. *Inkheart*. HC. 2003. RL=4<sup>th</sup> grade+

Characters from books literally leap off the page in this engrossing fantasy. Meggie, 12, has had her father to herself since her mother went away when she was young. Mo taught her to read when she was five, and the two share a mutual love of books. Things change after a visit from a scarred man who calls himself Dustfinger and who refers to Mo as Silvertongue. Meggie learns that her father has been keeping secrets. He can "read" characters out of books. When she was three, he read aloud from a book called *Inkheart* and released Dustfinger and other characters into the real world. At the same time, Meggie's mother disappeared into the story. Mo also released Capricorn, a sadistic villain who takes great pleasure in murdering people. He has sent his black-coated henchmen to track down Mo and intends to force him to read an immortal monster out of the story to get rid of his enemies. Meggie, Mo, Dustfinger, and Meggie's great-aunt Elinor are pursued, repeatedly captured, but manage to escape from Capricorn's henchmen as they attempt to find the author of *Inkheart* in the hope that he can write a new ending to the story. This "story within a story" will delight not just fantasy fans, but all readers who like an exciting plot with larger-than-life characters. (*School Library Journal* review)

Giff, Patricia Reilly. *Pictures of Hollis Woods*. PB & HC. PB & HC. 2002. RL = Grades 3+

Hollis Woods has been in so many foster homes she can hardly remember them all. She even runs away from the Regans, the one family who offers her a home. When Hollis is sent to Josie, an elderly artist who is quirky and affectionate, she wants to stay. But Josie is growing more forgetful every day. If Social Services finds out, they'll take Hollis away and move Josie into a home. Well, Hollis Woods won't let anyone separate them. She's escaped the system before; this time, she plans to take Josie with her. Yet behind all her plans, Hollis longs for her life with the Regans, fixing each moment of her time with them in pictures she'll never forget.

Gorman, Carol. *Dork in Disguise*. PB & HC. 1999. RL = Grades 3+

Last year, Jerry Flack was a dork. So this year, at a new school in a new town, he's decided to start a new life altogether--as a Cool Kid. He's been preparing all summer: studying teen magazines, acquiring hair gel, and distressing his jeans. Things get off to a good start, and before you know it, Jerry's in, Rollerblading with the pros. But soon, Jerry finds himself tangled up in a complicated web of lies; and what's more, he's battling a terrible urge to put his glasses back on, join the science team, build a hovercraft, and, worst of all, date Brenda, a 100% geek. Does he really want to be a dork in disguise forever?

Harlow, Joan Hiatt. *Star in the Storm*. PB & HC. 2000. RL=4<sup>th</sup> grade+

In 1912, fearing for the safety of her beloved Newfoundland dog Sirius because of a new law outlawing non-shepherding dogs in her Newfoundland village, twelve-year-old Maggie tries to save him by keeping him hidden.

Henkes, Kevin. *Olive's Ocean*. 2003 HC. RL=5<sup>th</sup> grade+ (2004 Newbery Honor Book)

Olive Barstow was in Martha Boyle's class until she was killed by a hit-and-run driver while riding her bicycle. Martha didn't know Olive -- not really. But after Olive's mother gives her a section from Olive's journal, Martha knows they could have been, would have been friends. And now Martha and her family are going to visit Godbee, Martha's grandmother, on Cape Cod for the rest of the summer -- as they do every year. The Boyles descent of Godbee's small house in a flurry of exuberance, mini-crises, diapers, and humor all mixed together. The ocean is still there.

And the five Manning boys still live nearby. There is Jimmy Manning with his ever-present video camera. Jimmy Manning, who gives Martha her first kiss. And Tate, who seems to follow Martha with his eyes. And then there is Olive, who had always wanted to see the ocean, and who now haunts Martha's thoughts and dreams...

Hesse, Karen. *Aleutian Sparrow*. HC. 2003. RL = Grades 6+

Vera, a young Aleut girl who lives with an elderly couple on a larger island so that she can attend school, returns home for the summer of 1942 to visit her mother and friends. But when the Japanese launch an air attack on the Aleutian Islands, the U.S. government reacts by "evacuating" most of the Aleut population. Vera and her village are forced to leave their small island of Kashaga and spend the rest of the war in internment camps, facing sickness, suffer, and death.

---. *Out of the Dust*. PB & HC. RL = Grades 4+ (1998 Newbery Award Winner)

In a series of poems, fifteen-year-old Billie Jo relates the hardships of living on her family's wheat farm in Oklahoma during the dust bowl years of the Depression.

Holm, Jennifer. *Our Only May Amelia*. PB & HC. RL = Grades 4+ (2000 Newbery Honor Book)

It isn't easy being a pioneer in the state of Washington in 1899, but it's particularly hard when you are the only girl ever born in the new settlement. With seven older brothers and a love of adventure, May Amelia Jackson just can't seem to abide her family's insistence that she behave like a Proper Young Lady. Not when there's fishing to be done, sheep to be herded, and real live murderers to be captured! May is sure she could manage better if only there were at least one other girl living along the banks of the Nasel River. And now that Mama's going to have a baby, maybe there's hope....

Hunter, Erin. *Into the Wild* (Part 1 of the *Warriors* series). PB & HC. 2003. RL=4<sup>th</sup> grade+

For generations, four clans of wild cats have shared the forest according to laws laid down by powerful ancestral clans. But now things are changing: ShadowClan has banished WindClan and is threatening RiverClan and ThunderClan by insisting on hunting rights within their territories. What's more, each year the TwoLegs encroach further into the forest, and prey is becoming scarce. A prophecy reveals, "Fire alone can save [the] Clan." Into this dangerous situation wanders a "kittypet," a young, bright orange tomcat whose courage earns him, despite objections by some, a place as an apprentice ThunderClan warrior and the new name of Firepaw. In this first spine-tingling episode in the planned *Warriors* series, Firepaw learns the ways of the wild life, facing many dangers and treachery both within and without his new clan. Intelligence notwithstanding, the cat characters are true to their feline nature, making this sure to appeal to fans of Clare Bell's long-popular *Ratha's Creature* (1983) and its sequels and also to followers of Brian Jacques' ongoing *Redwall* series. (*Booklist* review). *Warriors #5: A Dangerous Path* (HC 2004), and *Warriors #6: The Darkest Hour* (HC 2004) are also wanted!

Jarvis, Robin. *The Dark Portal: Book One of the Deptford Mice Trilogy*. PB & HC. 2000. RL = 4<sup>th</sup> grade+

In the British tradition of *Redwall* comes this first novel of a trilogy that is sure to capture fans both young and old. In the sewers of Deptford, there lurks a dark presence that fills the tunnels with fear. The rats worship it in the blackness and name it "Jupiter, Lord of All." Into this twilight realm wanders a small and frightened mouse -- the unwitting trigger of a chain of events that hurtles the Deptford mice into a world of heroic adventure and terror. Books two (*The Crystal Prison*) and three (*The Final Reckoning*) are also needed.

Johnson, Angela. *A Cool Midnight*. HC. 2003. RL = Grades 4+

Nine-year-old Lila, born with xeroderma pigmentosum, a skin disease that make her sensitive to sunlight, makes secret plans to feel the sun's rays on her tenth birthday.

Keehn, Sally M. *The First Horse I See*. PB & HC. 1999. RL = 4<sup>th</sup> grade+

From the moment Willojean sees the bony, skittish ex-racehorse, she is convinced that it is the horse for her. Reluctantly, her grandfather acquiesces, and they take Tess back to their Chesapeake Bay farm. However, when her father returns from a trip, he, too, is convinced that his daughter has made a bad choice and gives her a date by which Tess must either be under control or sent back to the dealer. Willo is also dealing with her mother's recent death and her father's alcoholism as well as his emotional and physical absence. Her friends, Dove and Colin, offer their help with Tess, but Colin is having his own problems with an abusive stepfather. Through hard work, determination, and kindness, Willo begins to make some progress with her horse, but Colin's life becomes more desperate, and he and his mother make plans to escape. Before they can get away, the stepfather shoots Colin's beloved horse. This tragedy forces Willo's father to look at his relationship with his daughter and to appreciate how much she has grown through her work with Tess and how much she and the horse need one another. There are no fairy-tale endings here, even though the conclusion is upbeat. Willo's father's alcoholism is still a problem and Tess is still a difficult horse. However, all of the characters are richly drawn and the plot is fast moving and complex. Willo is a resilient and believable heroine with whom readers will empathize, making this well-written story a worthwhile and entertaining read. (*School Library Journal* review)

Lester, Alison. *The Snow Pony*. HC. 2003. RL = 5<sup>th</sup> grade+

Prolonged drought has strained Dusty's ranching family to the breaking point, but she finds consolation with her wild and beautiful horse.

Martin, Ann M and Laura Godwin. *The Doll People*. PB & HC. 2000. RL=4th grade+

This novel, named a Publishers Weekly Best Book of 2000, introduces the Doll family, who has lived in the same dollhouse, in the same room of a family's home for 100 years. "The authors provide plenty of action and suspense, but it is their skillfully crafted details about the dolls' personalities and daily routines that prove most memorable. A fun-filled adventure free from nostalgia," (*Publishers Weekly* review excerpt).

- - - . *The Meanest Doll in the World*. HC. 2003. RL=4<sup>th</sup> grade+

It was exciting when the 100-year-old, dollhouse-dwelling Doll Family met the modern, "real pink plastic" Funcrafts in *The Doll People* (2000), a thoroughly charming exploration of the fantasy that dolls are secretly alive. In this action-packed sequel, things heat up even further after Annabelle Doll and her best friend Tiffany Funcraft dive into the human girl's backpack and get hauled off to school. They end up in the wrong kid's backpack and in the home of the meanest doll in the world! Will they bravely take on Mean Mimi, who is determined to expose the sacred secret of dollkind? And, how will they get home? Selznick's pencil drawings are winningly expressive, and the clever title-page progression, spelling out "The Meanest Doll in the World" in several pages, is not to be missed. There are inspiring moments of fortitude here as the dolls show readers how to live with integrity and without fear. (*Booklist* review)

Mass, Wendy. *A Mango-Shaped Space*. HC. 2003. RL=5<sup>th</sup> grade+

This contemporary novel does for synesthesia what Terry Hesser's *Kissing Doorknobs* (1998) does for obsessive-compulsive disorder: the lively personal story demystifies a fascinating condition. For 13-year-old Mia Winchell, the world has always been filled with a wonderful, if sometimes dizzying, sensory onslaught--numbers, letters, words, and sounds all cause her to see a distinct array of colors. She keeps her unusual condition a secret until eighth grade, but then her color visions make math and Spanish impossibly confusing, and she must go to her parents and a doctor

for help. However, this is more than a docu-novel. Mass beautifully integrates information about synesthesia with Mia's coming-of-age story, which includes her break with her best friend, her grief over her grandfather's death, and the loss of her beloved pet. The episode where Mia fabricates an illness to try out acupuncture for the color visions it produces is marvelously done, showing Mia's eagerness for new experiences even as it describes a synesthete's vision. References to a comprehensive Web site and bibliography about synesthesia are included. (*Booklist* review)

Morgan, Clay. *The Boy who Spoke Dog*. HC. 2003. RL = Grades 3+

A thrilling survival story about a shipwrecked boy and a pack of wild dogs Jack, a storm-snatched cabin boy, washes up on a mysterious island. He finds sheep, sheep dogs, and wild dogs called fangos, but strangely, no people. Jack struggles to survive, to understand the dogs, and to befriend a little Border collie named Moxie. She and the other sheep dogs are mystified by the skinny boy, who does not fit their myths about people. During a final battle between the fangos and the sheep dogs, Jack finds he can communicate with the dogs, a discovery that deepens his friendship with Moxie and validates his life on the island. But the crew from Jack's ship returns to rescue him--now that Jack does not want to be rescued. This middle-grade novel, told from Moxie's and Jack's alternating points of view, reads like a classic adventure story--vivid, swiftly paced, and woven with the timeless themes of a boy's self-reliance and the intense loyalty of dogs.

Peck, Richard. *A Long Way from Chicago*. PB & HC. 1998. RL = Grades 4+ (Newbery Honor Book & National Book Award Finalist)

What happens when Joey and his sister, Mary Alice--two city slickers from Chicago--make their annual summer visit to Grandma Dowdel's seemingly sleepy Illinois town? In the tradition of American humorists Mark Twain and Flannery O'Connor, Richard Peck has created this memorable world filled with characters who, like Grandma herself, are larger than life and twice as entertaining.

### **Young Adult:**

Alvarez, Julia. *Before We Were Free*. PB & HC. 2002. RL = Grades 5+ (Winner of the Belpre Award)

In the early 1960s in the Dominican Republic, twelve-year-old Anita learns that her family is involved in the underground movement to end the bloody rule of the dictator, General Trujillo.

Cabot, Meg. Any of the "Princess Diaries" books (besides *Princess in the Spotlight*). Cabot's *All American Girl* would also be a fun book to have in the library.

Cameron, Ann. *Colibri*. HC. 2003. RL = Grades 5+

Kidnapped when she was very young by an unscrupulous man who has forced her to lie and beg to get money, a twelve-year-old Mayan girl endures an abusive life, always wishing she could return to the parents she can hardly remember.

Card, Orson Scott. *Ender's Shadow*. PB & HC. RL = Grades 6+

You can't step into the same river twice, but Card has gracefully dipped twice into the same inkwell--once for *Ender's Game* and again for this stand-alone "parallel novel." The course readers will follow this time is of the superhuman child Bean. Raised on streets ruled by starving children's gangs, he was too weak, at age four, to hold peanuts in his hand, but ingenious enough to trick the other children into civilizing themselves--and to keep himself alive. When his genius and uncanny understanding of individuals' motivations are discovered, he is sent to Battle School, where children learn to command fleets for the war with the alien Buggers--the smallest kid ever

to do so. Bean is not as perfect as Ender Wiggin--hero of the Ender Quartet, begun with Ender's Game and concluded with Children of the Mind--but he becomes Ender's ally. Though Bean is cold at first, the kind of child who weighs the costs of hugging the nun who saved him from the streets, he wants to understand the respect and love that Ender wields. Thus, Bean's story is twofold: he learns to be a soldier, and to be human. Devotees of the Ender saga will delight in the revelations about the formation of Ender's Dragon army and about the last of Ender's games. Though newcomers to the series may miss many of the novel's points, the wonders of Battle School and flashsuits and children's armies should keep them turning pages. As always, everyone will be struck by the power of Card's children, always more and less than human, perfect yet struggling, tragic yet hopeful, wondrous and strange. (*Publishers Weekly* review)

Other Card books the library needs include: *Speaker for the Dead* (Ender Series #2), *Xenocide* (#3), *Children of the Mind* (#4), *Shadow of the Hegemon*, and *Shadow Puppets*.

Carroll, Jenny (Meg Cabot's pseudonym). Any books in "The Mediator" series. RL = Grades 5+

Clement-Davies, David. *Fire Bringer*. PB & HC. 2000 RL = Grades 6+

I In a Scotland beset by Norse invaders, the deer—the Herla—are fighting their own war. A tyrannical new lord of the herd has ended the old way, the yearly play of antlers that ensured a change of leadership. At his command is a corps of young stags, scars on their brows and antlers sharpened for the kill, whose mission is complete dominion over the animal world. But Herla lore promises a hero—a fawn with a strange birthmark whose unique bond with all creatures, including man, will ignite an epic battle and free the Herla forever. In this grand and gripping book, with its echoes of myth, legend, and gospel, David Clement-Davies has created a classic hero tale set in a society that is at once convincingly animal and a sharp reflection of our own.

- - -. *Sight*. PB & HC. 2002. RL = Grades 6+

In the shadow of an abandoned castle, a wolf pack seeks shelter. The she-wolf is about to give birth, and her pups could not survive exposure to the bitter Transylvanian winter. But something more threatening than snow and wind stalks the pack -- a lone wolf, Morgra, possessed of a mysterious and terrifying power known as the Sight. And with her travels a raven, a bird that feeds on the dead. Morgra's arts show her that one of the pups born beneath the castle holds a key to power even stronger than her own -- power that could give her control of this world and the next. Her soul, eaten up by the memory of an old crime, longs for this ultimate dominion. But the pack she hunts is brave and loving. They will do anything to protect their own, even if it means setting in motion a battle that will involve all of nature, including the creature wolves fear the most -- Man.

Dunkle, Clare. *Hollow Kingdom*. HC. 2003. RL = Grades 5+

"Clare Dunkle brings a fresh new voice to the high art of fantasy. She creates a world filled with intense excitement, terror, beauty, and love—a world as persuasive as it is remarkable. Splendid!"- Lloyd Alexander

Duprau, Jeanne. *The City of Ember*. PB & HC. 2003. RL = Grades 5+

The city of Ember was built deep underground as a last refuge for the human race. Two hundred years later, the great lamps that light the city are beginning to flicker. When Lina finds part of an ancient message, she's sure it holds a secret that will save the city. She and her friend Doon must decipher the message before the lights go out on Ember forever! This stunning debut novel offers refreshingly clear writing and fascinating, original characters.

- - -. *The People of Sparks*. HC. 2004. RL = Grades 5+

*The People of Sparks* picks up where *The City of Ember* leaves off. Lina and Doon have emerged from the underground city to the exciting new world above, and it isn't long before they are followed by the other inhabitants of Ember. The Emberites soon come across a town where they are welcomed, fed, and given places to sleep. But the town's resources are limited and it isn't long before resentment begins to grow between the two groups. When anonymous acts of vandalism push them toward violence, it's up to Lina and Doon to discover who's behind the vandalism and why, before it's too late.

Horowitz, Anthony. *Stormbreaker* (Book One in the Alex Rider Adventure). PB & HC. 2000. RL=5<sup>th</sup> grade+

Alex Rider's world is turned upside down when he discovers that his uncle and guardian has been murdered. The 14-year-old makes one discovery after another until he is sucked into his uncle's undercover world. The Special Operations Division of M16, his uncle's real employer, blackmails the teen into serving England. After two short weeks of training, Alex is equipped with several special toys like a Game Boy with unique cartridges that allow it to scan, fax, and emit smoke bombs. Alex's mission is to complete his uncle's last assignment, to discover the secret that Herod Sayle is hiding behind his generous donation of one of his supercomputers to every school in the country. When Alex enters Sayle's compound in Port Tallon, he discovers a strange world of secrets and villains including Mr. Grin, an ex-circus knife catcher, and Yassen Gregorovich, professional hit man. The novel provides bang after bang as Alex experiences and survives unbelievably dangerous episodes and eventually crashes through the roof of the Science Museum to save the day. Alex is a strong, smart hero. If readers consider luck the ruling factor in his universe, they will love this James Bond-style adventure. With short cliff-hanger chapters and its breathless pace, it is an excellent choice for reluctant readers. (*Booklist* review). Books 2 (*Point Blank*) and 3 (*Skeleton Key*) are also needed!

Jones, Diana Wynne. *Dark Lord of Derkhom*. PB & HC. RL = grades 5+

Derk, an unconventional wizard, and his magical family become involved in a plan to put a stop to the devastating tours of their world arranged by the tyrannical Mr. Chesney.

Mosher, Richard. *Zazoo*. PB & HC. 2001. RL=5<sup>th</sup> grade+ (Local author & 2002 Minnesota Book Award Winner)

Brought from her Vietnamese homeland when she was a toddler, 13-year-old Zazoo lives with her adoptive grandfather in France. Their home is an old, stone mill and together they work as lockkeepers on the nearby canal. From the girl's earliest memories, Grand-Pierre has composed poetry with her. Zazoo swims late into the autumn and she loves exploring the local waters in a boat the old man has made for her. Just as soon as the ice is set, they skate by moonlight on the canal. However, Grand-Pierre is undeniably slowing down and with his memory failing, Zazoo has assumed the role of a caregiver. She listens in the night to steer him away from the closet when he needs the bathroom and she spends hours with him, gazing out onto the canal, reminding him of the poems they once recited together. During an early-morning swim, Zazoo meets Marius, an intriguing 16-year-old stranger who questions her about the village pharmacist. The girl befriends the cultured and kindly Monsieur Klein, who holds the key to unlocking the hidden conflicts of her grandfather's younger years. Considered a hero of the Resistance, Grand-Pierre knows the folly of such labels. His story of trauma and loss unfolds through Zazoo's gentle questions and through her growing friendship with Monsieur Klein. As she sorts through the emotions that past tragedies resurrect, she also holds out hope for future meetings with Marius. Zazoo is a beautiful and lyrical novel, with poetry woven throughout. It is a story of love, devotion, and unwavering commitment that bridges generations and cultures. (*School Library Journal* review)

Nicholson, William. *Firesong* (Book Three in the Wind on Fire trilogy). PB & HC. 2002. RL = Grades 5+

This concluding volume of the trilogy features fast-paced action, poetic language, and carefully constructed characters. The first half of the book describes the journey of twins Bowman and Kestrel, their family, and the remnants of the Manth people to their ancestral homeland. They face an attack by bandits, who take Kestrel and other young women captive; a "passion fly" that brings out the hidden sides of people's natures; and a valley in which happiness is the greatest danger of all. As the time of "the wind on fire" begins, the focus shifts to Bowman's preparation for what he thinks will be his role in moving the world from cruelty and danger to the time of kindness. The twins' relationships with one another and with other characters give emotional depth to the action and Nicholson's sure use of detail gives even minor characters clear personalities and a role in exploring the book's themes. While *Firesong* will have an especially strong appeal to fans of *The Wind Singer* (2000) and *Slaves of the Mastery* (2001, both Hyperion), enough background is provided to make this an independently powerful fantasy that will appeal to fans of Philip Pullman's "His Dark Materials" trilogy. (*School Library Journal* review)

Orlev, Uri. *Run, Boy, Run*. HC. 2003. (2004 Batchelder Award). RL = Grades 5+

*Run, Boy, Run* is the extraordinary account of one boy's survival of the Holocaust. Srulik is only eight years old when he finds himself all alone in the Warsaw ghetto. He escapes into the countryside where he spends the ensuing years hiding in the forest, dependent on the sympathies and generosity of the poor farmers in the surrounding area. Despite the seemingly insurmountable odds, several chases, captures, attempted executions, and even the loss of his arm, Srulik miraculously survives.

Osa, Nancy. *Cuba 15*. HC. 2003. RL = Grades 5+ (Belpre Honor Book)

Violet Paz has just turned 15, a pivotal birthday in the eyes of her Cuban grandmother. Fifteen is the age when a girl enters womanhood, traditionally celebrating the occasion with a quinceañero. But while Violet is half Cuban, she's also half Polish, and more importantly, she feels 100% American. Except for her zany family's passion for playing dominoes, smoking cigars, and dancing to Latin music, Violet knows little about Cuban culture, nada about quinces, and only tidbits about the history of Cuba. So when Violet begrudgingly accepts Abuela's plans for a quinceañero—and as she begins to ask questions about her Cuban roots—cultures and feelings collide. The mere mention of Cuba and Fidel Castro elicits her grandparents' sadness and her father's anger. Only Violet's aunt Luz remains open-minded. With so many divergent views, it's not easy to know what to believe. All Violet knows is that she's got to form her own opinions, even if this jolts her family into unwanted confrontations. After all, a quince girl is supposed to embrace responsibility—and to Violet that includes understanding the Cuban heritage that binds her to a homeland she's never seen.

Peyton, K.M. *Blind Beauty*. HC. 2001. RL = 6<sup>th</sup> grade+

When Tessa's parents split up and she is torn from the side of Shiner, the eyeless mare she has doted on since early childhood, Tessa grows into an angry and rebellious spitfire. Kicked out of every school that tries to tame her, the 12-year-old is at last sent as an unwilling worker to the small farm run by tenants of her nasty stepfather (a man whose vices include cruelty, the glaring ostentation of the nouveau riche and—perhaps worst of all, by this book's standards—no true feeling for racing and horses). On the farm, Tessa sulks and scowls until she discovers that Buffoon, the awkward, gangling new horse she's been assigned to care for, is—in a bit of forgivable novelistic coincidence—the offspring of her long-lost Shiner. With Buffoon as the new focus of her prodigious energies, the headstrong girl struggles against numerous obstacles in order to eventually achieve the goal of riding her charge in the Grand National. British author Peyton's (Snowfall) knowledge of the racing world is thorough enough that readers will likely overlook a few halting shifts in point of view and some sloppy writing (e.g., "As well as running the home, she did the paperwork for both the farm and the racing department and ran a poultry business as well," Tessa observes of the woman who runs the tenant farm). Her distinctively cadenced prose

("And an idiotic smile lit up her face, Tom could almost feel it, like an electric fire. What a girl!") keeps the narrative galloping at a cracking pace. (*Publishers Weekly* review)

Pierce, Tamora. *Song of the Lioness* series: *Allana: The First Adventure* (Book 1), *In the Hand of the Goddess* (Book 2), *The Woman Who Rides Like a Man* (book 3), *Lioness Rampant* (Book 4) PB. RL = Grades 5+

A wonderful series of books that every fantasy reader (especially girls) should read!

Sutcliff, Rosemary. *The Eagle of the Ninth*. PB & HC. RL = grades 5+.

In A.D. 125, a young Roman centurian must recover the infamous Ninth Legion's missing symbol of honor, the eagle standard, during the Roman Empire's occupation of Britain. Sutcliff presents an unusual blend of stirring action and poetic symbolism in an authentic story from long ago.

White, T.H. *The Once and Future King*. PB & HC. 1958. Grades 6+

The world's greatest fantasy classic is the magical epic of King Arthur and his shining Camelot, of Merlyn and Guinevere, of beasts who talk and men who fly, of wizardry and war. It is the book of all things lost and wonderful and sad. It is the fantasy masterpiece by which all others are judged.

### **Non-Fiction:**

Ajmera, Maya (et al). *Children from Australia to Zimbabwe: A Photographic Journey Around the World*. HC. 2001. RL = Grades 3+

Vibrant color photographs portray positive images of children that help foster a sense of global citizenship. With an abundance of information about cultures, languages, and the environment, this fascinating journey around the world will inspire both young and old alike.

American Kennel Club. *The Complete Dog Book for Kids*. PB & HC. 1996. RL = Grades 3+

Packed with full-color portraits of all AKC-recognized breeds, a reference for young canine-lovers offers information on the history, character, size, origin, and "fun-facts" of the breeds, with instructions on how to care for dogs, from cleaning ears and giving baths to training and junior competitions.

Asimov, Isaac, and Greg Walz-Chojnacki. *UFOs: True Mysteries or Hoaxes?* HC. 1995. RL = Grades 3-4

Illustrated series: Isaac Asimov's New Library of the Universe. 32pp. This brief account examines the supposed sightings of alien craft from a skeptical viewpoint.

Biesty, Stephen. *Coollest Cross-sections Ever*. HC. 2001. RL = 2<sup>nd</sup> grade+

A unique collection of amazing views of the world by Stephen Biesty. See how a 14th-century castle holds up against a siege, and what life would have been like inside a World War II submarine. Learn how 18th-century warships battled on the high seas and what life is like on a space station. Discover how everyday things are made, from false teeth to Formula 1 racing cars and what holds up to the Empire State Building.

Bitton-Jackson, Livia. *I I Have Lived A Thousand Years: Growing Up In The Holocaust*. PB & HC. 1999. RL = Grades 6+

In a graphic present-tense narrative, this Holocaust memoir describes what happens to a Jewish girl who is 13 when the Nazis invade Hungary in 1944. She tells of a year of roundups, transports, selections, camps, torture, forced labor, and shootings, then of liberation and the return of a few....Horrible as her experience is, she doesn't dwell on the atrocities. There is hope here...(Booklist review excerpt)

Brown, Harriet. N. *The Babysitter's Handbook: The Care and Keeping of Kids* (American Girl Library Series), illus. by Stephanie Roth. PB. 1999. RL = Grades 4+

Offers practical advice for babysitters, covering such basic topics as feeding, crying, keeping children amused, first aid, bedtime, and more.

Coile, Caronline. *How Smart is Your Dog?*, illus. by Catherine Leary. HC. 2003. RL = Grades 4+

Your dog will act "smarter" if you know more about how he "thinks." Enter the world of canine senses--how your dog sees, hears, smells, tastes, touches differently from you, and how a dog's life and aging process differs from yours. You even learn to read your dog's brain function, intelligence, memory, and learning abilities--based on his biological origins. The most fun part: experiments to test your dog's health, reflexes, vision, and scent, or even track his behaviors descended from wolves.

Cobb, Vicki. *I Face the Wind*, illus. by Julia Gorton. HC. 2003. RL = K+ (2004 Siebert Honor Book)

The well-known science writer explains the properties and characteristics of wind in an easy-to-read format. The writing is clear and the explanations are age-appropriate... (*School Library Journal* review excerpt)

Crisswell, Kelley Patti. *A Smart Girl's Guide to Friendship Troubles* (American Girl Library), illus by Angela Martini. PB. 2003.

How do you speak up when you're afraid of hurting your friend's feelings? What do you do after a really big fight? What if your friend leaves you for the popular crowd? Inside you'll find tips, quizzes, and real-life stories that can help solve a girl's most common friendship troubles. When your friendship's in trouble, you need help -- fast. Here's the advice you need to get through the tough times and help you decide how to deal with friendship dilemmas.

Firestone, Mary and Kathleen Barclay. *School Secretaries* (Community Helpers). HC. 2003. RL = Grades 1+

This book is part of the "Community Helpers" series providing readers with an introduction to the roles and tasks of the school secretary...Also included in the book is a hands-on activity, words to know, index and Internet sites.

Freedman, Russell. *In Defense of Liberty: The Story of America's Bill of Rights*. HC. 2003. RL = Grades 4+

Freedman is at his best in this compelling, timely discussion of the Constitution and civil liberties. In his signature clear, conversational prose, he talks about the history of the Bill of Rights, from the time it was first voted on two centuries ago through the ongoing struggle to keep people free. What does that word *people* mean? For a long time, the term didn't include African Americans, Native Americans, or women. Freedman devotes a chapter to each amendment, covering its origin, various interpretations, landmark Supreme Court cases, and, always, the contemporary scene, including the conflicts now raging about national security and individual freedom in the aftermath of 9/11. He cites many cases involving young people and he is careful to discuss many sides of controversial topics such as abortion and capital punishment. (excerpt from a *Booklist* review)

Furbee, Mary Rodd. *Outrageous Women of Civil War Times*. PB. 2003. RL = Grades 3+

This book focuses on the amazing lives of the women who lived through the American Civil War era--the pioneers and trailblazers who risked their lives, braved the battlefield, defied tyranny, and became America's first women nurses, doctors, preachers, and

---. *Outrageous Women of Colonial America*. PB. 2003. RL = Grades 3+

Delightful and inspiring tales of some of the most fascinating and awesome women of colonial times

---. *Outrageous Women of the American Frontier*. PB. 2002. RL = Grades 3+

Biographies of some outspoken and influential women who lived in the American West from the late eighteenth through the early twentieth century.

Gaff, Jackie. *I Wonder Why Horses Wear Shoes: And Other Questions about Horses*. HC. 2002. RL = Grades 1+

I Wonder Why books have proven to be wonderful resources to have at hand to answer kids' everyday questions. This new addition to the series reins in a herd of questions children like to ask about one of their favorite animals, including: How high can horses jump? What kind of horses do knights ride? and Why do horses need grooming? With a stable full of clever horse facts and figures, this is a terrific way to stimulate curiosity and develop a child's reading skills.

*Girls and Their Horses: True Tales from American Girls*. PB. 2000. RL = K+

Girls love dreaming about horses. But what is it really like to own one? Real girls give an inside look at the hard work and the great rewards. Readers will discover how to rough-ride at a rodeo, do a handstand on horseback, and raise the teeniest horse breed ever. Includes a 24-card photographic horse breed guide.

Hepplewhite, Peter and Niel Tonge. *Alien Encounters* Sterling, 1998. Grades 5-8

Series: The Unexplained. 47pp. This book is filled with reports of strange and unexplained events such as encounters with aliens and UFOs.

Hodgson, Sarah. *DogPerfect: The User-Friendly Guide to a Well-Behaved Dog* (second edition). PB. 2003. RL = Grades 4+

This is one of the best dog training books I've ever read!

Hollyer, Beatrice. *Wake Up, World!: A Day in the Life of Children Around the World..* HC. 1999. RL = Grades 1+

*Wake Up, World!* follows eight children from eight different countries as each one goes through his or her day. Young readers can see how their own lives compare with other children's in such diverse places as Ghana and Russia, Australia and Vietnam, Brazil and England, India and the United States.

Holub, Joan. *Why Do Horses Neigh?*, illus. by Anna DiVito. PB. 2003. RL = Grades 1+

Using a question-and-answer format, *Rabbits* discusses the different traits and behaviors of rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, and gerbils. While all are rodents, each one has its own peculiarities. *Horses* does the same for horses and ponies. Charming, full-color photographs and drawings, especially those depicting the animals interacting with humans, mostly children,

enhance the large-type texts. A winning combination of tightly written narrative, age-appropriate vocabulary, and worthy illustrations guarantees that independent readers will enjoy these titles. (*School Library Journal* review)

---. *Why Do Rabbits Hop?: And Other Questions about Rabbits, Guinea Pigs, Hamsters, and Gerbils*, illus. by Anna DiVito. PB. 2003. RL = Grades 1+

Questions and answers present information about the behavior and characteristics of rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, and gerbils and their interaction with humans.

Holyoke, Nancy. *Help!: A Girl's Guide to Divorce and Stepfamilies* (American Girl Library Series), illus. by Scott Nash. PB. 1999. RL = Grades 4+

Answers letters from girls dealing with various aspects of divorce, remarriage, and stepfamilies. Includes tips, quizzes, and advice.

Jenkins, Steve and Robin Page. *What Do You Do with a Tail Like This?* HC. 2003. RL = K+ (2004 Caldecott Honor Book)

A nose for digging? Ears for seeing? Eyes that squirt blood? Explore the many amazing things animals can do with their ears, eyes, mouths, noses, feet, and tails in this beautifully illustrated interactive guessing book by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page.

Kauchak, Therese. *Good Sports: Winning, Losing, and Everything in Between* (American Girl Library Series), illus by Norm Bendell. PB. 1999. RL = Grades 3+

Provides advice on being a great teammate, a good winner, and a gracious loser, as well as dealing with coaches and other aspects of playing sports.

Khan, Jemima. *A Life Like Mine: How Children Live Around the World* (Children Just Like Me). HC. 2003. RL = Grades 2+

After ten years of study and consultation, UNICEF, the premier organization devoted to the care and welfare of the world's children, published the results of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Using these tenets as a base, *A Life Like Mine* profiles children from all over the globe leading their lives in different and fascinating ways. The challenges of nations both developed and developing are revealed in the stories and photographs in this special volume. DK and UNICEF have combined their inspirational forces to provide remarkable insight into children's lives.

LaBonte, Gail. *The Llama*. HC. 1989. RL = Grades 4-6

Introducing this gentle-natured member of the camel family.

Landstrom, Lee Ann. *Nature's Yucky: Gross Stuff That Helps Nature Work*. PB. 2003. RL = Grades 2+

Sixteen questions probe the ickier facets of nature in this olio: "Did you know- That bald eagles-eat rotting, dead fish?-hoary marmots-don't poop all winter long?-turkey vultures-poop on their very own legs?" Yup. The authors explore some interesting-if indelicate-facts about several birds and mammals, two invertebrates, one fish, and a reptile. After each question (and its "Eeewww!!" response), they explain why the behavior is not only OK, but beneficial. A section with further facts about the featured creatures and a recipe for "Scat Cookies" (the poop factor strikes again!) are included. Realistic full-color illustrations (and some soft, black-and-white sketches) accompany the whole. Good for browsing, and surefire for the lovers of gross-out factoids. (*School Library Journal* review)

Lauber, Patricia. *The True-or-False Book of Dogs*, illus. by Rosalyn Schanzer. PB & HC. 2003. RL =

Grades 2+

Starting all the way back "when there were no dogs, only wolves," Newbery medalist Patricia Lauber leads a brisk but enlightening romp through canine history in an effort to root out some popular misconceptions. (The Washington Post)

Lepthien, Emilie U. *Llamas*. HC. 1996. RL = Grades 3-4

An introduction to llamas and their relatives that tells about body structure, wool, and habits.

Lyon, George. *Mother to Tigers*, illus. by Peter Catalanotto. HC. 2003. RL = K+

This picture-book biography recounts the remarkable story of Helen Delaney Martini, the founder of the Bronx Zoo's animal nursery. The childless Martini began taking care of baby tigers in her apartment, when her zookeeper husband brought the infants home. Later, she volunteered to set up a nursery. She eventually became the zoo's first woman zookeeper and successfully mothered 27 tigers, assorted primates, and other animals,.. (excerpt from a Booklist review)

Madaras, Lynda. *Ready, Set, Grow! A What's Happening to My Body? Book for Younger Girls*, illus. by Linda Davick. PB & HC. 2003. RL = Grades 2+

From the award-winning author of the best books on puberty — A completely new book written especially for 8-11-year-old girls, playfully illustrated in an appealing, two-color design.

Madison, Lynda. *Feelings Book: The Care and Keeping of Your Emotions* (American Girl Library Series), illus. by Norm Bendell. PB. 2002. RL = Grades 3+

Discusses a variety of emotions girls might experience and suggests ways of dealing with them.

Magruder, Trula (ed). *Groom Your Room: Terrific Touches to Brighten Your Bedroom!* (American Girl Library Series). PB. 1997. RL = Grades 3+

Creative ways to add your own style to every corner of your room.

Murphy, Jim. *An American Plague: The True and Terrifying Story of the Yellow Fever: Epidemic of 1793*. HC. 2003. RL = Grades 4+ (Finalist for the 2003 National Book Award, a 2004 Newbery Honor Book, & winner of the 2004 Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award)

In a powerful, dramatic narrative, critically acclaimed author Jim Murphy describes the illness known as yellow fever and the toll it took on the city's residents, relating the epidemic to the major social and political events of the day and to 18th-century medical beliefs and practices. Drawing on first-hand accounts, Murphy spotlights the heroic role of Philadelphia's free blacks in combating the disease, and the Constitutional crisis that President Washington faced when he was forced to leave the city—and all his papers—while escaping the deadly contagion. The search for the fever's causes and cure, not found for more than a century afterward, provides a suspenseful counterpoint to this riveting true story of a city under siege...Thoroughly researched, generously illustrated with fascinating archival prints, and unflinching in its discussion of medical details, this book offers a glimpse into the conditions of American cities at the time of our nation's birth while drawing timely parallels to modern-day epidemics.

Nilsen, Anna. *Art Fraud Detective: Spot the Difference, Solve the Crime!* HC. 2000. RL = Grades 4+

A clever "spot the difference" book that also serves as a good introduction to art history. Using a comic-strip format, Nilsen alerts readers to the fact that 30 of these 34 paintings are fakes. A

double spread identifies the 16 suspected forgers, the symbol their particular gang hides on each forgery, and the number of changes (one to four) they deliberately added to each painting. The premise is to figure out which character forged which classic piece, and to determine which one of them snitched. The paintings, which include Georges Seurat's *Bathers at Asnières* and Vincent van Gogh's *Sunflowers*, are ingeniously depicted in their original and altered forms on split pages featuring the forgeries above and the museum catalog below. Readers are supposed to match up the forger with the artwork (a magnifying glass enables them to verify their detective work). The catalog pages briefly describe the artists' lives, their work, and the showcased piece. This approach should prove popular; it's something of a Where's Waldo for older children. (*School Library Journal* review)

Ommer, Uwe. *Families: The Global Family Album*. HC. 2003. RL = Grades 2+

This large-format book, adapted from photographer Ommer's exhibition and 580-page coffee-tabletome, *1,000 Families* (2000), will broaden children's horizons with stunning photographs of families from countries as diverse as Finland and Peru, Eritrea and Turkmenistan. Hints of globalization (an Adidas logo here, a Disney T-shirt there) will likely surprise young readers as much as the more exotic details, such as the neck-stretching copper bands worn by a 10-year-old Palaung girl. Reducing the 1,000 original photos to 53 could have been an excuse to weed out images alluding to ugly political realities, but fortunately this didn't occur: refugee camps serve as the backdrop for several portraits. Opposite each full-page photograph, readers will find a map of the country, vital statistics, and some text clumsily styled as a quote from one of the family's children ("My father is a polygamist, which means he has two wives"). But Ommer's exquisite photos carry the day; they may even attract children younger than the target audience, who will enjoy pointing out the kids in the pictures. (*Booklist* review)

Patterson, Francine Dr. *Koko's Kitten*. PB & HC. 1985. RL = Grades 1+

The cover photo alone is all that is needed to "sell" this book the smallest, most delicate of kitten profiles in the massively careful embrace of a glistening gorilla, whose bare-knuckled fist is four times the size of the diminutive feline's head, and whose face radiates tenderness. Koko is one of a number of great apes in various experimental communication programs and is remarkably conversant in American Sign Language, used by hundreds of thousands of hearing-impaired people. With her linguistic skill, she asked for, and finally received, the small, tailless tabby kitten she promptly named All Ball. This brief, moving book records Koko's relationship with her pet. All Ball was groomed, played with, cuddled and loved, and never once showed fear of her large foster-mother, outlandish though she might seem to feline eyes. The growing relationship was cut horribly short by All Ball's death beneath the wheels of a car, and Koko's grief is dramatically recorded on film. Fortunately, Koko was given the opportunity to have another kitten, and chose a second tailless Manx. In a happy new beginning, she is shown cuddling "Lipstick." In beautiful color photos, and a brief accompanying text, Patterson and Cohn let readers see beneath the glossy fur, the heavy brows and the animal shape to the gentle mind that wanted something to love and be loved by. An empathy-building book of high degree. (*School Library Journal* review)

---, *Koko-Love!: Conversations With a Signing Gorilla*. HC. 1999. RL = Grades 1+

More in the saga of Koko, the communicating gorilla who has pet kittens and continues to learn new language skills, is related by her surrogate mother, Dr. Patterson, and illustrated with good color photographs of various sizes showing Koko's activities and accomplishments in a lively format. She paints pictures, uses a computer, plays with a male gorilla friend who also signs, brushes her teeth, and wants a baby of her own. The simple, clear text traces the gorilla's life to date, cites actual conversations she has had with her human friends, and includes two pages of photos of Koko signing various words, from apple to visit. Readers who want to learn more about the Gorilla Foundation or to help support worldwide ecology efforts are encouraged to visit. (*School Library Journal* review)

Ransford, Sandy. *Horses and Ponies*. HC. 2001. RL = Grades 1+

Identifies and describes some types of horses and ponies, including information about their uses, and facts about riding, grooming, and racing

Schaefer, Valerie Lee. *The Care and Keeping of You: The Body Book for Girls* (American Girl Library Series), illus. by Norm Bender. PB. 1998. RL = Grades 3+

This "head to toe" guide answers all your questions, from hair care to healthy eating, bad breath to bras, periods to pimples, and everything in between.

Schyffert, Bea Uusma. *The Man Who Went to the Far Side of the Moon: The Story of Apollo 11 Astronaut Michael Collins*. HC. 2003. RL = Grades 3+ (2004 Batchelder Honor Award)

A biography of the astronaut, Michael Collins, who circled the moon in the Apollo 12 space capsule while his colleagues Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed the lunar module and walked on the moon.

Seamans, Sally. *The Care and Keeping of Friends* (American Girl Library Series), illus. by Nadine Bernard Westcott. PB. 1996. RL = Grades 3+

Offers things to consider and suggestions on how to go about making new friends.

Shedd, Warner. *Owls Aren't Wise & Bats Aren't Blind: A Naturalist Debunks Our Favorite Fallacies About Wildlife*. PB & HC. 2000. RL = Grades 5+

The wise old owl isn't really wise, and the expression "blind as a bat" is nonsense because bats actually have very good vision. The clever coyote deserves his nickname "wily," however, and opossums really do go into a trance-like state when frightened. This book takes several of our commonly held beliefs about wildlife and gives us the real story behind each--often quite different from what we've always believed! Shedd, a naturalist whose articles have appeared in *Sports Afield* and *Outdoor Life*, serves as director of the New Hampshire Wildlife Federation. He gives us the real scoop on the habits and lifestyles of 27 common North American animals and makes it an entertaining read by including personal anecdotes of his encounters with many of these creatures. (*Library Journal* review)

Van Frankenhuyzen, Gijsbert and Robbyn Smith. *Adopted by an Owl*. HC. 2001. RL = Grades 1+

A true story about a Great Horned Owl named Jackson, who chose his adopted human family over his natural instincts to live in the wild.

Whitney, Brooks. *Super Slumber Parties* (American Girl Library Series), illus. by Nadine Bernard Westcott. PB. 1997. RL = Grades 3+

Creative ideas for games, crafts, food, decorations, and favors, as well as planning and troubleshooting tips, to guarantee a successful sleepover.