

2018



FALL BOOK REVIEW

Presented by

The Department of Library & Learning Technologies

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Fall Book Review

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Library & Learning Technologies

Dr. Andrea Harmer, Department Chair

Prof. William Jefferson, Associate Professor

Dr. Michelle Sims, Assistant Professor

Prof. Roseanne Perkins, Instructor

Julie Setliff, Department Secretary

Megan Keenan, Graduate Assistant

The Department of Library & Learning Technologies

12 Rohrbach Library
Kutztown University of Pennsylvania
Kutztown, PA 19530

Phone: (610) 683-4300

Fax: (610) 683-1326

E-mail: libsci@kutztown.edu

<http://www.kutztown.edu/libraryscience>

FALL BOOK REVIEW

Book Lovers- including librarians, professors, teachers, and students convene for the biannual Book Review Session, in spring and fall, hosted by the Department of Library & Learning Technologies at Kutztown University. These enjoyable gatherings culminate in a selection of books to be reviewed by the attendees.

The result of this process is the collection of reviews you hold in your hands.

To the publishers who generously contribute books, year after year, and the reviewers on the following pages...

Thank You!



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BE BRAVE, LITTLE PENGUIN

Andreae, Giles. Illus. Guy Parker-Rees. *Be Brave, Little Penguin*. New York: Orchard Books, 2017. 978-1-338-15039-1. \$16.99. PreK-K.

All children have some irrational fear at some point in their young lives, and this adorable tale about a little penguin provides a valuable lesson to these young readers. Down in Antarctica, a little penguin named Pip-Pip is the smallest penguin of them all, and he struggles with a fear of the water. While all his penguin friends and family go swimming in the polar waters, Pip-Pip chooses to occupy himself on land. The little penguin is teased by the others and though he is sad and lonely, he chooses not to show any tears. Even Pip-Pip's own father claims that, for a penguin, to fear the water is ridiculous. However, Pip-Pip's mother takes a different approach. She chooses to be gentler with young Pip-Pip, and rather than belittle his fear, she slowly encourages the young penguin into the water step by step. As Pip-Pip describes the potential horrors that the sea has to offer, his mother instead chooses to point out to him all the lovely things that can be done in the water, such as swimming with friends and fishing. Mother penguin encourages Pip-Pip to be brave, and at last he takes a leap of faith (literally) into the sea water. Pip-Pip learns that he loves the water, just as any penguin should, it only took some gentle coaxing from his mother. This is a wonderful life lesson for young kids in facing their own fears. They will see that all of us can have fears that other people don't have or understand, but all it takes is love and courage to make it through the fear. Parker-Rees's illustrations are bold and beautiful, and he does an excellent job of illustrating the fateful moment Pip-Pip takes the plunge with a spectacular two page spread. Young readers are sure to fall in love with little Pip-Pip's story!

Picture Book

Megan Keenan, Graduate Student, Kutztown University

THANK YOU, MR. PANDA/GRACIAS, SR. PANDA

Antony, Steve. *Thank You, Mr. Panda/Gracias, Sr. Panda*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 2018. 978-1-338-23343-8. \$6.99. PreK-K.

Antony's picture book, introduces the idea of being thankful to its young readers through the life of a panda and his friends. The book travels around with Mr. Panda and a lemur as they go around to their friends delivering presents; the presents are from Mr. Panda. When delivering the presents the friends all have a critique for the gift they are given and the lemur reminds each of them that, "It's the thought that counts." A lesson to take away from this story is that when someone does something kind for you, it is important to be thankful towards him or her. Friendship is another lesson that is prevalent throughout the story. It is important to be nice to your friends and show them that you are thankful for them and what they do for you. The illustrations are colorful and simple to follow for the reader. Within the classroom, this book would be best used to introduce the idea of saying "thank you" and being thankful for the things given to you, as well as being kind to your friends, during a story time.

Picture Book

Erin Crawford, Undergraduate Student, Kutztown University

UNPLUGGED

Antony, Steve. *Unplugged*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2018. \$16.99. 978-1-338-18737-3. PreK-K.

Blip loves playing on her computer, but when the plug accidentally gets unplugged she discovers a bright colorful world outside, making friends with the animals, and playing till the sun goes down. Once she returns back to her home she realizes how much fun it can be going outside and getting away from her computer. During the story, the illustrations show the games she normally plays on the computer and this is directly reflected in the activities she does outside with her animal friends, providing a fun visual, literacy piece. The book provides an excellent message about balancing time with technology and screens and getting outside to interact with the world and other people. It is truly a needed book for our current age. The clever illustrations engage the reader with full page spreads and cute art of a robot. This is a highly recommended book for the 3 to 5 age range as an introduction to those balancing concepts.

Picture Book

Sara Moyer, Library Aide at Robeson Community Library

FANTASTIC FROGS

Arlon, Penelope. *Fantastic Frogs*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 2013. 978-0-545-57271-2. \$3.99. Grades 1-2.

Did you know there are nearly 6,000 species of frogs in the world, including glass frogs with see-through skin and golden poison frogs that emit poison that can kill ten people with just one drop? These amazing facts are just part of the appeal of this non-fiction, level reader book designed to interest 1st and 2nd graders. Divided into seven chapters, with a glossary and index, information is imparted based on generalizations, physical anatomy, diet, life cycle, habitats, threats of extinction, and record-breakers. The large text of the book and each two-page spread, containing vibrant colored photographs and “new word” insets with pronunciation and definition, makes a very pleasing format. The interest continues to build throughout the book and culminates in the final chapter, “Record-breaking frogs,” which shows ten of the coolest frogs, including one as loud as a chainsaw! A value-added feature are the free digital activities that can be accessed with the code printed in the book to take quizzes and play frog games with videos and sound. Most children wouldn’t think frogs are very interesting – this book definitely would prove them wrong and is highly recommended as an informational text about a mostly unpopular organism.

Nonfiction

Gayle R. Heath, Library Director, Tamaqua Public Library

OUT OF THE WILD NIGHT

Balliett, Blue. *Out of the Wild Night*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2018. 05457867568. \$17.99. Grades 3-7

Out of the Wild Night is a ghost story by Blue Balliett. Ms. Balliet is winner of a Book Sense Book of the Year award and an Edgar Award winner. She has written many bestselling novels. The setting of this book is a windless November on the Island of Nantucket. We have two main characters, the narrator of the story, Mary W. Chase, the town crier who is also a ghost and Phee. Phee's real name is Phoebe Folger Antoine. Ghosts are known inhabitants on Nantucket. Some try not to believe in them and even ignore mysterious shapes and footprints in the sand. Others not only believe, they accept them and "live" with them. Nantucket has become a rich person's vacation area which makes any house that comes up for sale a goldmine. These houses are being bought up and remodeled by a developer who knows nothing about the hard-working heritage of the Nantucket people. While that would be upsetting enough to the people born and raised there, when the houses are remodeled and no longer what they once were, the ghosts of the people who used to live there cease to exist; a second dying of sorts. Mary is awakened when her "home" is about to be destroyed. While Phee and her friend can see many of the other ghosts, they cannot see Mary. Phee and her friends, particularly Gabe, realize the ghosts want them to help save the homes. This will not be an easy adventure and they will have to make others believe in the ghosts and try to get them to help. The book was enjoyable to read, but at times a bit confusing. In the end it all does make sense but being unaware of this made the story a little harder to follow at times. When the book is finished, and all is explained, you see how it is really quite intriguing and unique. Stick it out through the confusion. Hopefully this book is not passed over due to the less than flattering reviews online.

Supernatural/Ghost Story

Cassandra Hillegass, EdD. CCIU and Central Penn College

WHEN SOPHIE THINKS SHE CAN'T

Bang, Molly. *When Sophie Thinks She Can't*. New York: The Blue Sky Press Scholastic Inc., 2018. 978-1-338-15298-2. \$17.99. Grades K-3.

Bang's book features a young girl named Sophie who feels that she is not "smart". She becomes quite upset when she is unable to complete math puzzles as easily as her sister. At school the next day, Sophie's teachers challenges all of the students to complete a difficult math puzzle, but Sophie says she can't do it. With some encouragement from her friends, she does attempt the puzzle, but it is more difficult than she anticipated. When Sophie's teacher sees that all of the students are struggling she introduces them to the most important word: YET. The students learn that even though they cannot complete the puzzles YET, if they continue to try, they will succeed. In the end, all of the students are able to complete the math puzzles successfully, and Sophie even introduces her dad to the power of the word YET. This book would be a great asset to any elementary school classroom, especially when teaching about growth mindset.

Picture Book

Zoe David, Undergraduate Student, Kutztown University

STANLEY'S OPPOSITES

Bee, William. *Stanley's Opposites*. Atlanta, GA: Peachtree, 2017. 978-1-56145-977-3. \$6.95. PreK.

Bee's story, is an educational board book that teaches simple opposites to young children through the life of a hamster named Stanley. It uses different opposites that can be found throughout the day in a young child's life such as "in" and "out." This book will help children relate their lives to that of Stanley. The author uses simple sentences that highlight and emphasis the opposite words. The repetitive nature of the book will help young children understand and catch onto the information presented in the book. For each page, the visual provides a guide for the reader to understand the difference between the opposites. The pictures are simplistic, yet colorful, inviting and easy to understand for young readers. The board book is a great tool to use to teach young children opposites. Implementing this book into the classroom as a social aid or during math class would be appropriate.

Picture Book: Board Book

Erin Crawford, Undergraduate Student, Kutztown University

THE BRONZE KEY

Black, Holly and Cassandra Clare. *The Bronze Key*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2016. 978-0-545-522311. \$17.99. Grades 6-8.

The Bronze Key is the third installment in the Magisterium series. The book starts in the beginning of Call, Aaron, and Tamara's third year as students of the Magisterium. The group attends a party thrown in their favor for defeating the Enemy of Death. Although, no one else but their small group knows that the Enemy's soul lives on in Call's body, or so they think. While at the party an attempt on Call's life is made and a murder occurs, sending the guests at the Magisterium in a panic. Call thought that his third year was going to be easy peasy now that everyone thought the Enemy was dead, but the possibility of a spy and a murder on the loose in the school turns everything around. Now it's up to Call and his friends to figure out who has a vendetta against him before it's too late. Black and Clare are a fantastic author tag team who created a series that is not only excitingly dangerous and dark, but also focuses on the humor, hijinks, and relationships that kids encounter growing up. These books are perfect for fans of the *Harry Potter* series and readers will be dying to know what happens to the Magisterium students in the next book, *The Silver Mask*.

Fantasy

Alyssa Daney, Library Science Student, Kutztown University

TRAIL OF THE DEAD

Bruchac, Joseph. *Trail of the Dead*. 2015. New York: Lee & Low Books, Inc. 978-1-62014-261-5. \$19.95. Ages 12+.

Bruchac's attempt to weave Native American culture into a futuristic saga fell drastically short in this sequel to *Killer of Enemies*. After the first few chapters, the descriptions of the characters and quality of the narratives of the protagonist Lozen deteriorated, lacking the literary elements to capture the reader's attention. The story drags and not a lot happens other than the bloody battles. The only elements of Native American folklore evident were through the visits of Coyote. At times the interjections of fictional creatures seem forced and disconnected. These are meant to be the monsters and allies she encounters on her search for a safe haven for her family and friends in this post-apocalyptic tale. The most disturbing issue with this novel were the graphic and gruesome details describing the bloodthirsty thoughts of Luther, the villain seeking to destroy Lozen and every living creature. I would not recommend this book for young adults due to the dark nature of some of the scenes.

Science Fiction

Dr. Mary Ann O'Neil, Professor Emeriti, Kutztown University

TRUCK FULL OF DUCKS

Burach, Ross. *Truck Full of Ducks*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2018. 978-1-338-12936-6. \$17.99. Grades PreK-3.

Using a brevity of words, but an abundance of illustrations, Burach has created a winningly funny and silly book that is sure to be enjoyed by all ages – even adults! The title of the book tells the basic plot – a truck full of ducks are to be delivered, but where, for one of the ducks has eaten the delivery paper! Each two-page spread shows the duck delivery truck with the driver, a robust dog, asking the same question, “Did you call for a truck full of ducks?” The answer on each facing page follows the basic formula of, “No, I called for a _____ truck.” The repetition, instead of being boring, creates suspense in wondering what kind of truck is coming next; especially as each unfolding scenario becomes more detailed in verbiage, illustration, and concept – from a simple mail truck to a tow truck for a space ship! The illustrations are extremely clever, silly, and fun. For example, the response of “No, not me. I called for a mail truck,” is made by a small girl who has a package ready to be mailed with the head of her brother poking out of the top and the box he is contained in is stamped, “Contents: 1 Brother Please mail very far away.” So in all the silliness, there are some interesting, real issues to talk about. The persistence (and exasperation) of the duck truck driver results in the ducks being delivered to the correct place – the fox’s house in the deep, dark woods, which gives the book a scary element. The reader is sure the ducks are going to be the next meal for the fox, but the author has created the ultimate surprise – which you will have to read the book to find out! Great enjoyment and new discoveries are provided by this book with each subsequent reading – it is sure to be a favorite book by all preschoolers to lower elementary- aged children.

Picture Book

Gayle R. Heath, Library Director, Tamaqua Public Library

BIRD & SQUIRREL ON FIRE

Burks, James. *Bird & Squirrel on Fire*. New York: Scholastic, 2017. 0545804299. \$18.99. Grades 2-5

Bird and Squirrel on Fire is the 4th book in the Bird and Squirrel series. This reader had not read any of the previous stories, but that did not detract from this story, as it can be read on its own. In this story Bird and Squirrel are arriving home from an adventure. Squirrel is very happy to be home, he appears to be a homebody. On the other hand, Bird appears to be the more adventurous of the two. Squirrel decides he needs to clean his home. Bird wants to help so he goes to get some water. For some reason the water that is normally in the river is not there. They both go out to try to find out what happened to the water. While they were away, a beaver built a dam that has stopped the river from flowing. The beaver is not a friendly beaver and he refuses to remove the dam. Another friend of theirs in the story is a squirrel named Red. Squirrel seems to have a bit of a crush on Red. Throughout the story Bird and Squirrel managed to get trapped by rats while trying to find their friend mouse. They decide to have a party which includes toasting marshmallows. This marshmallow toasting is what leads to the fire mentioned in the title of the book. But, if you recall, they have no water in the river to put out the fire. The friends all rush to the beaver and work out a deal to get water to the fire. The story has a happy ending which takes place three seasons later. This is a graphic novel written and illustrated by James Burks. Mr. Burks' resume includes working on projects such as *The Iron Giant*, *Treasure Planet*, and *The Emperor's New Groove*. The book seems to be geared towards the appropriate age range. Some over the recommended reading level might enjoy the story and illustrations also.

Graphic Novel

Cassandra Hillegass, EdD. CCIU and Central Penn College

NOT IF I SAVE YOU FIRST

Carter, Ally. *Not If I Save You First*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2018. 978-1-338-13414-8. Grades 7-10.

Maddie hasn't seen her best friend, or anyone else besides her father, for six years, but that never stopped her from still trying to look her best even when surrounded by nothing else but the Alaskan wilderness. When Logan shows up unexpectedly after so many years apart, Maddie isn't sure what to think at first. She hasn't heard anything from him for such a long time and he never wrote back to her no matter how many letters she sent, but that ten-year-old boy she used to know has grown up into a young man that looks so handsome. Logan thought that his parents hated him and were sending him away to live in solitude. After all, ditching your Secret Service bodyguard and disappearing for hours at a time was sure to make your parents worry, but for the President's son, that just meant being sent away to a place where everything can kill you, even the water. Now that the two were in Alaska together and alone, Logan is convinced that if the bears or poisonous berries didn't get to him first, Maddie would. Too bad, the Russian killer beats Maddie to it and now she has to save Logan so she gets a shot at killing him first. Carter's novel is perfect for younger readers who want to read about a strong female lead that doesn't choose to forgo her feminine side in order to outwit and beat her enemies. Maddie acts like any other teenage girl who is worried about how she looks, which creates a funny atmosphere when the world just seems to have it out to give her a bad hair day. There is a lot of action that will appeal to all readers, and also a bit of romance to balance it out. Readers will stick with it to the end, just to see if Maddie and Logan can make it out alive through all the twists and turns.

Realistic Fiction, Action

Alyssa Daney, Library Science Student, Kutztown University

REVOLUTIONARY ROGUES: JOHN ANDRE AND BENEDICT ARNOLD

Castrovilla, Selene. Illus. John O'Brien. *Revolutionary Rogues: John Andre and Benedict Arnold*. Honesdale: Calkins Creek, 2017. 978-1-62979-341-2. \$17.95. Grades 4-7.

This not your ordinary picture book! *Revolutionary Rogues* takes a complex topic and breaks it down into more manageable information for younger readers. Some of the language in the story is a bit difficult for the 4th grade crowd, but would be appropriate for the early middle school reader. Castrovilla presents the events immediately leading up to the capture and execution of Major John Andre as a British spy during the Revolutionary War, as well as the consequential aftermath as seen by Benedict Arnold's viewpoint. This picture book is broken up into sections based on the dates and the locations where major events occurred. At the back of the book, the author provides an "Aftermath" section where she discusses the effects of the death of Andre and the betrayal of Arnold in more depth. Also included are two timelines, one for the major events in the life of John Andre and the other for Benedict Arnold. Castrovilla also provides a wealth of information for further exploration on this topic, such as places to visit in New York and London and an extensive bibliography of works used for her own research. O'Brien's illustrations are detailed and colorful and lend a lighter tone to some of the darker historical events in the story. Overall, it's the perfect blend of historical fact and visual intrigue that will have even the most hesitant student of history reaching for this title!

Picture Book

Megan Keenan, Graduate Student, Kutztown University

ME, FRIDA, AND THE SECRET OF THE PEACOCK RING

Cervantes, A. *Me, Frida, and the Secret of the Peacock Ring*. New York: Scholastic, 2018. 978-1-338-15931-8. \$16.99. Grades 3-7.

The female protagonist of the story, Paloma Marquez, travels to Coyoacan, Mexico to the town of the famous Mexican artist, Frida Kahlo. Along with her mother, a literature professor, studying abroad on a fellowship, she travels to the hometown of her father who passed away when Paloma was three. Both she and her mother are hoping to recapture some memories of her father. It doesn't take long for Paloma to be caught up in a mystery, just like her hero, the fictional heroine detective, Lulu Pennywhistle. This novel interweaves history and fiction in an adventurous way. Historically based on the request of Frida Kahlo's husband, many of her possessions really were locked away after her death. He requested the possessions to stay hidden for 15 years after his death. Instead they were hidden until 2002. The novel's mystery begins after the possessions are disclosed. When the possessions were catalogued in the novel, the peacock ring is missing. A man is jailed for the theft. The man's two children seek out the help of Paloma to solve the mystery of the missing ring. Paloma relies on her knowledge of Lulu Pennywhistle's crime solving ability to find the real person responsible for stealing the peacock ring. This historical fiction novel would be a great addition to any library looking for a connection between art and literature, loves a mystery, or enjoys art.

Historical Fiction

Cynthia Stunkard, Assistant Professor, Kutztown University

THE NOTEBOOK OF DOOM #1: RISE OF THE BALLOON GOONS

Cummings, Troy. *The Notebook of Doom #1: Rise of the Balloon Goons*. New York: Branches, 2013. 978-0-545-49323-9. \$4.99. Grades 1-3.

Alexander Bopp is your average 6th grade boy, struggling with his fears of being the new kid in school at Stermont Elementary. He deals with bullying, rude nicknames and just overall unluckiness on his first day of school, but what isn't so average is his discovery of a strange notebook with the initials S.S.M.P on the cover. Inside there are bizarre depictions of monsters. From Forkupines to Rhinoceraptors, Alexander is concerned that there are more things to fear in Stermont than meets the eye! In this first installment in the series, Alexander comes face to face with terrible, air-stealing beasts that he calls balloon goons (air dancers). With the unlikely assistance of the school bully, Rip, Alexander sets out during his birthday party, to take down the goons that have been stealing air from bouncy castles, footballs and car tires all over town. Can Rip and Alexander rid Stermont of these air-sucking goons before they can create a massive balloon army? Young readers will be enthralled with this action-packed story that combines some relatable school anxiety elements with light-hearted, monster fantasy. Each page is a collaboration of written text and illustrations, making this series an excellent way to introduce younger readers to chapter books. Cummings also cleverly incorporates pages from within the Notebook of Doom itself, showing readers exactly what Alexander is seeing as he flips through the monster descriptions and drawings. The humor throughout this story will surely have young elementary students in stitches!

Early Chapter Book/Fantasy

Megan Keenan, Graduate Student, Kutztown University

KIRANMALA AND THE KINGDOM BEYOND: THE SERPENT'S SECRET

Dasgupta, Sayantani. Illus. Vivienne To. *Kiranmala and the Kingdom Beyond: The Serpent's Secret*. New York; Scholastic Press, 2018. 978-1-338-18570-6. \$17.99. Grades 4+.

Kiranamala is a typical 6th grade daughter of Indian immigrants living in not-so-interesting Parsippany, New Jersey; that is until her twelfth birthday. When an out-of-of this dimension demon, called a Rakkhosh, sends her parents into another world, Kiranamala is given no choice but to begin a journey of self-discovery. Aided by two prince half-brothers (one a half Rakkhosh himself) and a riddle spouting magical bird, Kiranamala must travel through the ever-changing Kingdom Beyond Seven Oceans and Thirteen Rivers to find her parents. This tale of magic and adventure captures the essence of Indian culture and folklore, while providing a humoristic take on the classic preteen quest. Fans of Rick Riordan will find the use of a minority girl main character refreshing; however, the title still appeals to both male and female readers.

Fantasy

Kelsey Means, Teacher, ELANCO School District

BLOOD AND INK

Davis, Stephen. *Blood and Ink*. 2017. Watertown, MD: Charlesbridge Publishing. . 978-1-58089-790-7. \$17.99. Ages 12+.

This was a fascinating love story based on 2012 events in West Africa involving the moderate Sufi Muslims of Timbuktu and the radical Defenders of the Faith. The story unfolds through the narratives of Kadija, a young teenage girl guarding the treasured ancient Timbuktu manuscripts and Ali, a young Ali, a young man who has been lured into the Defenders of the Faith. Both are members of the Fulani tribe. Davis draws upon his experiences as a missionary living among the Fulani herders, excerpts from the manuscripts and ideals of both groups to reveal the similarities between these two Muslim groups and similarities to Christian religions. The harshness of sharia law and the extreme ideologies are revealed through the narratives of these two fictional characters whose lives intersect when the radicals invade Timbuktu. What began with a hatred develops into forbidden love. The present tense narratives are interspersed with transcripts from the ancient manuscripts provide the reader with victims and villains and a realistic glimpse into the Muslim culture and society. A glossary and afterward provide more historical information.

Historical Fiction/Thriller

Dr. Mary Ann O'Neil, Professor Emeriti, Kutztown University

THE ROOSTER WHO WOULD NOT BE QUIET!/ ¡EL GALLO QUE NO CALLABRA!

Deedy, Carmen Agra. *The Rooster Who Would Not Be Quiet!/ ¡El Gallo Que No Callabra!*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2017. 9781338114140. \$14.39. Grades K-5.

¡El Gallo Que No Callabra! Or in English, *The Rooster Who Would Not Be Quiet!*, is a wonderful book. The story follows a rooster who lives in quite a noisy town. A new mayor comes along and outlaws singing in the town. When a rooster enters the town, who is not afraid to make a little noise, he begins to sing as he pleases. Although the mayor will try to stop him the rooster from singing, the rooster is relentless and continues. This is a great story about standing up to what you believe in. The story is both written in English and Spanish. Great for any bilingual learners. Lesson could be taught about what students believe in. This book would be a great addition to any classroom.

Picture Book

Karlene Rutherford, Undergraduate Student, Kutztown University

CONFUCIUS: GREAT TEACHER OF CHINA

Demi. *Confucius: Great Teacher of China*. New York: Lee & Low Books, 2018. \$21.00. 978-1-62014-193-9. Grades 4-6.

When one thinks of the wisdom of Confucius, the first thought may be that little slip of paper in a fortune cookie. But who really is the man behind those words? This biographical picture book attempts to give the young reader that answer. Demi is able to give a nice overview of his life from birth to death and how his legacy continues on in Chinese philosophy. She presents him as the mortal man that shared his knowledge with the people when he was dissatisfied with his government positions, and she also shows the immortality of his wisdom and the mythological aspects of his life story. She pairs the informational text with beautiful illustrations done in the illustrative style of Chinese art with metallic gold leaf accents. The pages themselves are made to look like old linen paper that was used in 500 BCE which adds a nice touch. The illustrations also provide a nice balance with the text and add a mystical aspect of Chinese art that was popular at the time. The author provides a source list for readers to explore at the back of the text. It's a good text to use for the curious reader to learn more about the man behind Confucianism.

Picture Book/Biography

Sara Moyer, Library Aide at Robeson Community Library

I CAN BE ANYTHING! (DON'T TELL ME I CAN'T)

Dillon, Diane. *I Can Be Anything! (Don't Tell Me I Can't)*. The Blue Sky Press, 2018. 9781338166903. \$17.99. Grades K-4.

Young Zoe has big dreams, but an inner voice nags at her, doubting whether she can actually accomplish them. This empowering book reminds young children that they can't give in to the negative thoughts that may creep into their minds. While a bit long and repetitive, the overall message of confidence and determination is wonderful. One of the best parts is the list of career options on the back cover!

Picture Book

Megan Griesemer, Librarian, Carlisle Area School District

MIGUEL'S BRAVE KNIGHT: YOUNG CERVANTES AND HIS DREAM OF DON QUIXOTE

Engle, Margarita. Illus. Raul Colon. *Miguel's Brave Knight: Young Cervantes and His Dream of Don Quixote*. Atlanta: Peachtree Publishers, 2017. 9781561458561. \$ 17.95. Grades 3-5.

Miguel's Brave Knight is a biography picture book about Miguel Cervantes. The author's words flow beautifully with the stunning illustrations. The biography is told through a series of poems. Miguel is daydreaming about his family, his town, and the future. Miguel does not have an easy life. He faces many daily troubles in his town. He finds comfort in his writing and imagination. This book is great for any history buffs for European history or Don Quixote. This book would also suit any imaginative thinkers in the classroom.

Picture Book

Karlene Rutherford, Undergraduate student, Kutztown University

WED WABBIT

Evans, Lissa. *Wed Wabbit*. David Fickling Books, 2018. 9781338185270. \$17.99. Grades 3-7.

This imaginative chapter book is reminiscent of several other great stories, including *Alice in Wonderland* and *The Wizard of Oz*. After a horrible accident involving her sister, Minnie, 10-year old Fidge and her cousin, Graham, are somehow transported into the land of Wimbley Woos. The Wimbley Woos, who are creatures in Minnie's favorite story, are being cruelly ruled by Minnie's stuffed animal, Wed Wabbit. The colorful Wimbley Woos speak only in rhyme and Wed Wabbit cannot pronounce his R's, leading to many hilarious exchanges. The story is creative and exciting as Fidge and Graham (along with a few of Minnie's other toys) must solve riddles and work together to find their way back home.

Fiction

Megan Griesemer, Librarian, Carlisle Area School District

THE SECRET DIARY OF LYDIA BENNET

Farrant, Natasha. *The Secret Diary of Lydia Bennet*. Frome, Somerset: Chicken House, 2016. 978-0-545-94031-3. \$7.75. Grades 7+.

This extension of the classic, *Pride & Prejudice* by Jane Austin, is written in diary format from the point of view of Lydia Bennett. She details her adventures from Longbourne to Brighton, to London, and back. It is an engaging story from the first page to the last, and features Lydia's personality. The story line is creative and intriguing. Lydia Bennett comes alive in a story reminiscent of Jane Austin's work without the author seeming to try too hard to copy every bit. The reader is able to see the story of *Pride & Prejudice* from Lydia's eyes, and even gain some insight that was not available through Elizabeth's perspective. Readers who are familiar with *Pride & Prejudice* will enjoy this story, as I did, but even young adult readers will enjoy the story line and voice of the character. This book can be used as a stand-alone in a library or as an alternative perspective when studying Austen's work.

Diary/Extension of a classic/Alternative perspective

Brittany Harris, Graduate Assistant, KU

THE KING OF KAZOO

Feuti, Norm. *The King of Kazoo*. New York: Graphix-Scholastic, 2016. 978-0-545-77089-7. \$12.99. Grades 3-5.

King Cornelius is a self-absorbed king trying to find his own legacy in all the wrong places. Princess Bing on the other hand is a talented magician who is both thoughtful and smart. When Bing's bird named Gypsy informs her of a secret tunnel in Mount Kazoo, she wants to go explore. However, before she is able to talk to her father about it, there's an explosion on Mount Kazoo. Bing knows the two things must be connected. She, Gypsy, and the royal inventor named Torq go with the King to investigate. On their way, they run into the Kroakers in the swamp and discover that the townspeople of Halfway are missing. Will the famous alchemist named Quaf get away with his evil plan? Will King Cornelius learn to appreciate those around him and give credit where it is due? Luckily, Bing and Torq are there to save the day with magic and science. Readers will enjoy the antics as the plot thickens and will giggle at the quirks of each character. The bold, colorful illustrations of this graphic novel bring the characters to life and give the reader a lot of additional information as they read. This fun-filled adventure would be a great addition to both elementary and public libraries.

Graphic Novel

Karen J. Wanamaker, Librarian, Kutztown University of Pa.

DUCKS AWAY!

Fox, Mem & Horacek, Judy. *Ducks Away!* New York: Scholastic Press, 2016. 978-1-338-18566-9. \$16.99. PreK-K.

This adorable book introduces the mother duck as she crosses a bridge over a river. Much to the reader's surprise, she is being followed by not one fluffy duckling, not two fluffy ducklings, but five fluffy ducklings! Readers are encouraged to count along as the ducks cross the bridge with their mother. Just then, a big gust of wind blew one of the ducklings into the water below. What will the mother duck do? Before she can decide, another one of her ducklings slipped into the water, and another, and another! Before long, all five of the mother's ducklings were happily swimming in the water below. But what does the mother duck do now? Read to find out the solution to her dilemma! Filled with simple, yet colorful pictures, the book makes it easy for young readers to follow along and make predictions about the story. Counting skills are encouraged and enhanced in this story and is a must have in any preschool and kindergarten classroom.

Picture Book

Angela Davidheiser, Special & Elementary Ed student, Kutztown University

TERRIFIC TONGUES!

Gianferrari, Maria. *Terrific Tongues!* Illustrated by Jia Liu, Boyds Mills Press, 2018. 978-1-62091-784-8. \$17.95. Grades PreK-2.

The tongues of the animal kingdom are truly terrific! All sorts of animals have tongues with unique talents, such as the woodpecker, whose tongue acts like a sword to stab insects, and the anteater, whose tongue is like a whip that can snap in and out of an ant nest up to 160 times in one minute. All sorts of animal tongues are portrayed, with colorful illustrations that are both visually pleasing and help children understand what the text describes. There are also creative pages that show tongues in the shapes of the instruments and tools to which they are being compared. Each animal has another extended description of its tongue's talents at the end of the book, along with some additional animals that were not mentioned earlier. Human tongues are also given special attention with even more facts about how our tongues work. A nice detail is that the human faces in the illustrations display a wide variety of races and ethnicities. This book is recommended for libraries that serve children.

Picture Book/Non-Fiction

Amber Sams, Librarian, Saucon Valley HS

GABE

Gill, Shelley. Illus. Marc Scheff. *Gabe*. Massachusetts: Charlesbridge Press, 2016. 1570913544. \$12.95. Ages 8-12.

Gabe is the memoir of the author, Shelly Gill. Shelly was a teenager in the 1970's which is when the story is set. Shelly tells of how she traveled all over the USA with her dog Gabe. Gabe came into her life in 1972 when he was left at The Rainbow Gathering in Colorado. Gabe was left in the medical tent at the gathering in which Shelly was volunteering. Shelly and Gabe become very close and she takes him everywhere with her. Gabe protects her from danger on many occasions. He senses when someone is not a good person and he protects her apartment from being robbed. In New Orleans he gets loose and runs away. Even though Shelly was staying for a while in New Orleans, she was not going to stay in the same part of the city. When she moved, she figured Gabe was gone for good. Two weeks later Gabe shows up where she was working. When Shelly was 19 she ends up in Alaska. Gabe meets a female malamute named Becca. Becca has four pups which she seems to have abandoned. Shelly feeds each one, Henry, Sport, Ajax, and Little Becca with a bottle. They all grew to be large dogs worthy of the Iditarod. A 1,150 mile dog sled race. In 1977 when Shelly was 22 years of age, she and her friend, Susan Butcher signed up for the race. By this time Gabe is a bit older and Shelly soon finds out he is not a race dog. This is a short book with only 64 pages. The illustrations, by Marc Scheff, are on every page. In fact, some might refer to it as a graphic novel. They are very colorful, and some are not so pretty. When Gabe gets into a fight, the illustration of him is that of an angry dog. Some of the younger kids might not like the angry dog images.

Graphic Novel/Non-Fiction

Cassandra Hillegass, EdD. CCIU and Central Penn College

PRINCESS TRULY IN: MY MAGICAL SPARKLING CURLS

Greenawalt, Kelly. Illus. Amariah Rauscher. *Princess Truly in: My Magical Sparkling Curls*. New York: Orchard Books, 2018. \$17.99. 978-1-338-16719-1/ PreK-K.

Greenawalt and Amariah's book, tells the story of a young girl named Truly, who is proud of her curly hair. When Truly is confident her curls shine and she can go anywhere and do anything she can imagine. She goes all around the world, back in time and even into outer space when her curls shine. This story is meant to introduce the idea of being confident in yourself. The goal of the authors is for the people reading the story to know that they are "strong, smart, problem-solving, and confident." The goal of this story is to inspire its readers to reach for their dreams and to stay true to who they are, as the girl's name is Truly. The message is embracing who you are. This story has captivating and colorful illustrations that takes its readers on the adventures with Truly. Within the classroom, this book would best be used during a story time.

Picture Book: Fiction

Erin Crawford, Undergraduate Student, Kutztown University

MIDNIGHT TEACHER: LILLY ANN GRANDERSON AND HER SECRET SCHOOL

Halfmann, Janet. Illus. London Ladd. *Midnight Teacher: Lilly Ann Granderson and Her Secret School*. New York: Lee & Low Books, 2018. 978-1620141632. \$15.33. Grades 4-6.

Picture yourself as a young child playing school with the master's children in the big house, paying close attention to every word they shared because you truly wanted to learn to read and write. Or imagine yourself as an older child sneaking into the thick forest on Sundays so you and your friends could practice spelling new words by writing them in the soft brown earth, while most people were at church. Later, as an adult, see yourself knowing and understanding literacy skills well enough to persuade others to sneak through the darkest nights to attend your midnight school's reading and writing classes, even though such behavior carried risk of severe punishment for all those who were apprehended. Scenarios such as those mentioned are said to be true experiences of Lilly Ann Eliza Cox Granderson, an enslaved woman who was born in Petersburg, Virginia. After her mother's death, she was sold to a slave owner in Kentucky; then after a few years, she was sold again, that time to a cotton plantation in Natchez, Mississippi. Although enslaved people such as Lilly Ann were not allowed to attend school, many of Lilly Ann's students became literate because she taught them well, believing that everyone should learn how to read as a way of knowing their path to important information and ultimately, freedom, despite the risks of punishment for learning to read. This true story about experiences of an important teacher is shared within a detailed, realistically painted picture book. The author's *Afterward* provides additional interesting historical information related to the Civil War Era, and the *Selected References, Quotation Sources*, and *Acknowledgements* support the distinguished scholarship of the book. Readers will surely appreciate the historical significance, clearly written descriptions, and eloquent illustrations which can be combined to make this book an invaluable addition to libraries and classrooms in support of social studies curriculum.

Historical Picture Book

Dr. Jeanie Burnett, professor emeriti, Kutztown University

A LADY HAS THE FLOOR: BELVA LOCKWOOD SPEAKS OUT FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Hannigan, Kate. Jay, Allison. *A Lady Has the Floor: Belva Lockwood Speaks Out for Women's Rights*. Honesdale: Calkins Creek. 2018. 978-1-62979-453-2. \$23.95. Grades 2-5.

This historical tale recounts the amazing efforts of Belva Lockwood and her lifelong devotion to women's rights and equality. Belva, who was a teacher herself, is depicted as intelligent, brave, outspoken and passionate! Throughout 32 pages, Hannigan weaves through the trials and tribulations of Belva's crusade for women's rights. We learn about more crusaders such as Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who were well known leaders of the movement. Time and time again throughout the story, students will be fascinated by Belva's courageous decisions and sacrifices she made for the cause she'd lay down her life for. The cracked and faded illustrations will bring history to life in a new way for students who have always adored history or those who haven't found interest in it yet. Hannigan has also included, for teacher's ease of use, a small biography of Belva Lockwood and a timeline of important moments throughout Belva's life. There is also a bibliography that teachers can have students use for research and famous quotes said by this brilliant crusader. This story is sure to spur a plethora of wonderful discussions, written pieces and research projects on historical movements that have shaped the world as we know it. I would hope to see this book in every classroom for its political discussion, historical accuracy, encouragement to fight for what is right, and for demonstrating what a good leader looks like.

Nonfiction Picture Book

Devin Landis, Student, Kutztown University

THIS IS THE KISS

Harcup, Claire. Illus. Gabriel Alborozo. *This is the Kiss*. New York: Cartwheel Books, 2016. 978-1-338-18733-5. \$5.99. Pre K-K.

Story time is extra fun with this cute, interactive bedtime story. Right on the front cover is a fox saying, "A fun way to read together." The story begins at the end of a fun day for Big Bear and Little Bear. The storyline follows these two along on their bedtime routine. The actual story is short, which can be great for young children. On every other page there is a cute little creature with a question that relates directly to what is happening in the story or is directed toward something that readers can discuss, such as what they like or how they are feeling. The questions are varied, some are simple and some are more thought-provoking. At the sweet-dreams-end of the story the question is about your favorite dream. What better way to end a bedtime story! The last two pages suggest some creative story activities. There are more questions to discuss with a child, activities, story starters, questions about the story, and discussion starters about feelings. Besides being an adorable bedtime story, this book is full of fun, creative ways parents and caregivers can talk and connect with their children. The story also does not specify who Big Bear and Little Bear are (i.e. boy/girl, mom/dad/grandparent, etc.). This is impactful because there are so many diverse families and the way this book is written includes all of the "Big Bear" caretakers. The illustrations are simple and unique. There is a use of fine lines and muted colors that seem to accentuate Big and Little Bear's relationship. This, and any of the other books in the Story Play series, comes highly recommended for any public library or personal book collection.

Picture Book

Erin Engler, Librarian, Whitehall-Coplay School District

CRAWLY SCHOOL FOR BUGS: POEMS TO DRIVE YOU BUGGY

Harrison, David L. Illus. Julie Bayless. *Crawly School For Bugs: Poems to Drive You Buggy*. Honesdale: WordSong, 2018. 978-1-62979-204-0. \$17.95. Grades K-4.

This is a superb book to use to introduce children to insects and their habits; different types of poetry; and human nature! Using personification, insects attend school and learn a variety of lessons. Interestingly, the lessons they learn, or the way the poem is illustrated, often tell the reader something about the insects' habits. The poetry types are varied, which not only creates more engagement with the book, but provides a platform to talk about the myriad forms poems can take. The book's illustrations are splendidly creative – a human element is added to a realistic insect body, creating an unexpected funny and winning picture. For example, in the poem, "Our School Nurse," dialog begins in a graphic novel format on one page, with a variety of insects who have gotten hurt in some fashion, going to the school nurse, who happens to be a female mosquito. Conversations bubbles for the insect "students" are in black font with a gray-filled background, while the "nurse's" conversations bubbles are in red font with a pink-filled background. And the nurse's response is always the same – "I'd better take some blood." The facing page summarizes the poem using a single conventional stanza and the illustration of the "nurse" is of a mosquito with six legs, two become legs terminating with little white shoes, while the other four legs are "arms," each holding a syringe filled with blood! She has on a short red v-neck scrub, with a stethoscope in the front pocket, which completes the personification. Children not only learn that it is strictly the female mosquitoes which draw blood, but they will learn about alliteration, habits of ticks, what kind of insect doesn't "play well with others," and how hard it is to control our natural proclivities in a "school" setting! As a stand-alone book, this picture/poetry book is magnificent; it can also be used in tandem with non-fiction insect books to learn more about these creatures or with other poetry books – a five-star rating from start to finish!

Poetry/Picture Book

Gayle R. Heath, Library Director, Tamaqua Public Library

COMPARING ANIMAL TRAITS: HUMPBACK WHALES: MUSICAL MIGRATING MAMMALS

Hirsch, Rebecca E. *Comparing Animal Traits: Humpback Whales: Musical Migrating Mammals*. Minneapolis: Lerner Publications, 2015. 978-1-4677-5579-5. \$20.45. Grades 2-4.

This nonfiction picture book is perfect for all young animal lovers! Rather than simply discussing the traits of a humpback whale, Hirsch cleverly introduces this information by comparing the humpback whale to the traits of other animals such as humpback dolphins, hedgehogs, fennec foxes and more. Each of the four chapters discusses a particular aspect of the humpback whale, such as what it looks like, where it lives and the animal's life cycle. After looking specifically at the traits for the whale, readers are then presented with information about another animal, and on the adjoining page there is a concise comparison chart. This text would be excellent for introducing young students to the concepts of comparison and contrast between two items, in this case, two animal species. There are full picture images of each of the animals throughout the book, making it bright and inviting for even the most reluctant of readers! At the back of the book there are many educational resources, such as a glossary of terms with definitions, a list of texts for learning further information about humpback whales, and even a conclusive comparison chart which compares humpback whales to every other animal discussed throughout the book in a single diagram. The reading level is listed as being for 2nd to 4th graders, but this book would most likely be best suited to 3rd grade and up, though 2nd graders would still enjoy the images and comparison charts as well as the "Did You Know?" quick facts on each page.

Picture Book/Nonfiction

Megan Keenan, Graduate Student, Kutztown University

HOUSE ARREST

Holt, K. A. *House Arrest*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2015. \$16.99. 978-1-45213-477-2. Grades 5-8.

Tim is a boy who tries to help in the only way he knows how but gets in trouble for doing so. Desperate to buy the medicine needed to keep his little brother Levi alive, Tim takes advantage of the opportunity to steal a wallet, and then uses a credit card to purchase the medicine. Quickly caught, Tim's punishment includes keeping a journal, which becomes *House Arrest*. He tells the reader about his family, their friends, his probation officer, and the nurses who come in to care for his little brother. While his crime was illegal and immoral, his story helps the reader to understand how a young teen like Timothy might feel driven to commit such an act. His life revolves around his brother's disability, and while he tries to follow the rules, his moral obligation to his brother gets in the way again. He develops the ability to find joy in simple pleasures: Levi's smile, a bag of groceries left at the door, and the cacophony of a large family. This book-length free-verse poem has realistic descriptions typical of a prepubescent boy, stressing the gross and disgusting while dancing around emotional connections. The reader sees not only the struggles of a low-income family dealing with illness and crime, but also the kindness of the people around them in trying to help them survive and overcome seemingly insurmountable problems of medical red-tape, rules and regulations, broken families, and the bullying of holier-than-thou outsiders. *House Arrest* is a wake-up call to teens who minimize the consequences of illegal acts as well as the rest of society which judges those who commit such crimes out of hopelessness. A good read for middle school boys.

Poetry/Coming of Age

Marge McCormick, Tamaqua Area Middle School

SCHOOL PEOPLE

Hopkins, Lee Bennett. Illus. Shi, Ellen. *School People*. Honesdale: WordSong, 2018. 978-1-62979-703-8. \$17.95. Grades K-3.

Hopkin's compiles a collection of lovable poems about school that are written by multiple renowned authors. The book begins with Dotlich's famous "School's Story" and beckons readers into a world in which they will discover and explore the people who work at a school. The next poem introduces Esenwine's "Bus Driver" and cheerfully recounts roles of the children's bus driver. Following are other poems with similar themes, all celebrating the people of the school. The colorful, captivating artwork captures the attention of readers as they read the poems and explore the worlds of a crossing guard, teachers, lunch lady, librarian, nurse, and more. The collection of poems ends with an excerpt from "School's Story" symbolizing the end of a successful day at school. The poems are upbeat and engaging to children, portraying school people in a positive, welcoming light. This book is very good for the first week back to school or throughout class time as readers try guess which person the poem is describing.

Picture Book

Angela Davidheiser, Special & Elementary Ed student, Kutztown University

FALCON WILD

Johnson, Terry Lynn. *Falcon Wild*. 2017. Watertown, MD: Charlesbridge Publishing. 978-1-50889-788-4. \$16.99. Ages 10 and up.

Johnson attempts to interweave a story of trust and of falconry through the narrations of thirteen-year-old Karma. The narration switches from the simplistic thoughts of a young teen during her escapades for survival, to very sophisticated academic language when imparting information about falconry. This inconsistency, along with the highly improbable events made this story a little too incredulous. Karma helps her father with a bird-of-prey education center in Montana. Having trouble with making friends at school, she becomes attached to Stark, a rescued white gyrfalcon. The adventures begin when she, her younger brother and father must deliver Stark to his owner. They encounter Cooper, a young hitchhiker along the way. After they drop Cooper off, they turn off to what they think is a shorter route and their van blows a tire and crashes injuring her father and releasing Stark to the wild. Cooper has stolen her cell phone and Karma has to leave her brother with her father and walk for help. The events that follow become increasingly unbelievable: she falls into a crevice, Cooper finds her because Stark is circling over the crevice, they are chased by a bear, swept away in a rushing river, cross mountains, just to mention a few, all while trying to find the main highway and help only to find they are back at the van. We do learn Cooper's story and lessons on trust, perseverance, forgiveness, and falconry.

Adventure/Fiction

Dr. Mary Ann O'Neil, Professor Emeriti, Kutztown University

TO CATCH A CHEAT

Johnson, Varian. *To Catch a Cheat*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 2016. 978054572239. \$16.99. Grades 6-8.

Jackson Greene and the rest of the Gang Greene crew race against time in the sequel to *The Great Greene Heist* as they are framed for destroying school property. They have a record of being mischievous and stealing, but this time, they need to fight for their innocence. If they do not clear their names, not only are their reputations in jeopardy, but they will be suspended from school and any activities. The stakes are raised when the true delinquent sends the crew a fake video showing Jackson and his friends breaking into the school. The demand is given that the final history exam must be stolen to ensure the footage is not leaked to the principal. How will the gang strategically catch the criminal in his act? Which students will Dr. Kelsey, the principal, believe? Johnson does a phenomenal job of engaging readers from beginning to end while keeping them guessing on the culprit. Additionally, the stage is clearly set with a list of characters and the roles they play for a clearer picture of the storyline. Middle schoolers are sure to enjoy this book and relate to the topics presented: from clubs and activities, to having a crush, and making friends regardless of similarities or differences.

Chapter Book

Laura Conaway, Undergraduate Student, Kutztown University

THE MAGIC SCHOOL BUS RIDES AGAIN: CARLOS GETS THE SNEEZE

Katschke, Judy. *The Magic School Bus Rides Again: Carlos Gets the Sneeze*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2018. 9781338194463. \$4.99. Grades: 1-5.

This title is part of the Branches early chapter book line from Scholastic. This is book 3 of 5 in *The Magic School Bus Rides Again* series, and now Professor Frizzle's kid sister, Fiona, is introduced as the new teacher at Walkerville Elementary. But alas, Fiona thinks just like The Friz: take chances, make mistakes and get messy! In this title, Carlos can't stop sneezing after the class pet, a rat, is introduced. Of course, this will lead to a study of the human body as the class searches for the cause of Carlos's allergies.

Fantasy, Adventure

Sharon Breeden, Librarian, Lebanon School District

THE MAGIC SCHOOL BUS RIDES AGAIN: SINK OR SWIM

Katschke, Judy. *The Magic School Bus Rides Again: Sink or Swim*. New York: Branches/Scholastic, 2018. 978-1-338-19445-6. \$4.99. Grades 1-4.

Part of Scholastic's Branches line of early chapter books, the *Magic School Bus Rides Again* is based on the new television series and will appeal to early readers looking for fast-paced reading, exciting plots, and some familiar characters. The original Miss Frizzle is a professor now, so her younger sister Fiona is teaching the class and taking them on adventures. In *Sink or Swim*, the students head to Hawaii for some fun and relaxation. But readers who are familiar with the series will soon find the learning never stops. Wanda tries to save an endangered fish, and she ends up face-to-face with a shark. Her classmates come to the rescue and learn about the ocean and why fish are safer in a school. Besides the quick plot and likable characters, the book provided easy-to-read print and illustrations on every page. This is a must-buy series for libraries and classrooms alike. The science information is great for lessons; there are a lot of vocabulary words that could be pulled; and the problem solving and friendship themes abound. Climb aboard and enjoy the fun with this Magic School Bus title.

Chapter Book

Karen J. Wanamaker, Librarian, Kutztown University of Pa.

RABBIT MOON

Kim, J. *Rabbit Moon*. New York: Scholastic and Arthur A Levine Books, 2018. 978-1-338-03639-8. \$17.99. PreK-K.

Based on the Korean folklore of how wishes become stars, this beautifully illustrated book depicts the Rabbit Moon. The Rabbit Moon is what the people of Korea see in the moon's surface. The shadows of the moon's craters make a shape that appears to be a rabbit with a mortar pounding rice for rice cakes. In the book, Rabbit Moon receives wishes from the Earth, reads them, and then sets them in the sky as stars. Rabbit Moon is also lonely. He makes a wish that takes him to Earth. He is welcomed and makes many friends who continue to write wishes that are sent to the moon. With no one to read the wishes and create stars from the wishes, the stars in the sky dwindle. With his friends, Rabbit Moon knows what he must do. Will he get back to the moon? Will the sky go dark? Will wishes again become stars? This book could be used as a mentor text for cause and effect reasoning. Younger students could make predictions based on picture evidence. This book also explores acceptance and friendship. With schools becoming more diverse, this book would be a great addition to the folk lore section. Adding Korean folklore to the American figures such as John Henry and Paul Bunyan makes this a beautifully illustrated choice.

Picture Book/Folklore

Cynthia Stunkard, Assistant Professor, Kutztown University

Hey-Ho, to Mars We'll Go!

Lendroth, Susan. Illus. Bob Kolar. *Hey-Ho, to Mars We'll go*. Watertown: Charlesbridge, 2018. 9781580897440. \$16.99. Grades 3-5.

Hey-Ho, to Mars We'll Go! is a book for any adventures out there. The book follows to the catchy tune of "The Farmer in the Dell". Each page also has a fact about life in space. The young adventures in the book are on their way to Mars. The young astronauts will learn how to do daily activities in space. This would be a terrific story for a space-themed week. Students can do astronaut-themed activities while learning a new song. Both teacher and students will enjoy this book. A great book for out of this world learners.

Picture Book

Karlene Rutherford, Undergraduate student, Kutztown University

FAULT LINES IN THE CONSTITUTION: THE FRAMERS, THEIR FIGHTS, AND THE FLAWS THAT AFFECT US TODAY

Levinson, Cynthia & Levinson, Sanford. *Fault lines in the Constitution: the Framers, Their Fights, and the Flaws that Affect Us Today*, Atlanta, GA: Peachtree Publishers, 2017. 9781561459452. \$19.95. Grades 6-12.

Is the U.S. Constitution perfect? Should it be scrapped and re-written? Should it be modified to reflect current times? Who wrote this document? How did they come up with the content? These are only a few of the questions that arise when studying the U.S. Constitution. In this book, the authors delve into the many questions surrounding the writing of this great document. The book breaks down the components of the Constitution including the Preamble, the Bill of Rights, and the articles contained in the document. From subjects such as the Electoral College, succession of power, amendment ratification, composition of the Senate and House of Representatives, and much more, the young reader is forced to think about how the U.S. government operates. Using modern day examples and flashbacks to the time when the Constitution was being written, the reader gets some insight as to what the founding father's intent was when crafting the original articles. How do you get a bunch of men together in a room, all from different states with different agendas to agree on what would should be written. For that matter, why did only men compose the Constitution, where was the 'true representation' of the people? The book provides a good thorough look at the creation of the Constitution. Is it all encompassing? No, but it really gives a good head start on doing further research. There are some sentence structure errors throughout the book that got by the editor. But the reader can certainly grasp the idea being presented. After reading this book, the reader should be able to answer the questions presented here. Overall, a great book that that would be a nice addition to any library,

Nonfiction

Steve Tichy, Cataloger, Tamaqua Public Library

THE VANISHING THRONE

May, Elizabeth. *The Vanishing Throne*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2015. 978-1-4521-2882-5. \$17.99. Grades 9-12.

The second book in the Falconer Trilogy, *The Vanishing Throne*, follows up the tragic ending and cliffhanger of the first book *The Falconer*. Aileana finds herself a prisoner of the Baobhan Sith, Lonnrach, who decides to keep her alive for a mysterious purpose. While Lonnrach keeps Aileana alive, she feels like she is on the edge of death through the tortuous blood/memory-sucking that makes her relive her best memories, but also the ones that she would rather forget. With hope slipping away, Aileana doesn't believe her eyes when Kiaran appears and gives her a way to escape Lonnrach's clutches. All seems to be looking up until the truth about what happened to her home, Edinburgh, while she was locked away in the fae world, comes to light. Everything is in ruins and the human survivors are hidden away. Can Aileana save what is left of the world, or did Lonnrach finally break her mind and her will to fight? The sequel in The Falconer Trilogy does not disappoint its readers and fans. This novel continues the detail, action, and romance that was found in the first novel. The steampunk setting combined with faeries and a powerful female lead is a unique and interesting combination. Readers will be eagerly awaiting to read the third, and final book, in the series, *The Fallen Kingdom*.

Fantasy

Alyssa Daney, Library Science Student, Kutztown University

FLOWERS FOR SARAJEVO

McCutcheon, John. Illustrator Kristy Caldwell. *Flowers for Sarajevo*. Atlanta: Peachtree Publishers, 2017. 978-1-56145-943-8. \$15.56. Grades 2-5.

This short historical fiction story contains beautiful illustrations and follows a young boy, Drasko, as he helps his father sell flowers at a market in Sarajevo. His father gets called away to war, and Drasko must do what he can to keep his father's flower stand open. The other merchants are not as nice to him as they were to his father, but everyone comes together when tragedy strikes the city. Drasko watches a man play music in the street as a memorial, and he decides to donate flowers as his contribution. This story is based on a bombing during the Balkan Wars, and readers will need background information to understand the significance of the story. The author has provided maps and information at the end of the story, as well as a CD to a song called "Streets of Sarajevo". Teachers can use this as a story about paying it forward, but also to provide reality if studying the Balkan War or the start of WWI.

Historical Fiction/Short story

Brittany Harris, Graduate Assistant, KU

PERCY: DOG OF DESTINY

McGhee, Alison. Illus. Jennifer K. Mann. *Percy: Dog of Destiny*, Honesdale, Pa: Boyds Mills Press, 2017. 9781590789841. \$16.95. PreK-3.

Alison McGhee's latest entry in her line of children's books is *Percy: Dog of Destiny*. Percy is a head strong dog and his current adventure finds him going to the dog park to meet up with his friends. He expects to get a lot of playtime with his special ball and his gang friendly dogs. While frolicking in the dog park, Percy notices a 'no goodnick' squirrel that has his sights set on Percy's special ball. While Percy is rallying his dog friends and bragging about how he will be protecting his special ball, that darn squirrel does indeed steal Percy's ball. Was that squirrel stealing the ball just to be bad? No! He is just playing himself, and he tosses the ball to one of Percy's dog friends and all is well again. A cute book featuring a loveable group of dogs and a not so bad squirrel. Simple illustrations with easy dialogue will make this book a nice addition to the children's section of any library.

Picture Book

Steve Tichy, Cataloger, Tamaqua Public Library

I AM ALFONSO JONES

Medina, Tony. Illus. Stacey Robinson and John Jennngs. *I Am Alfonso Jones*. Tu Books, 2017. 978-1-62014-263-9. \$18.95. Grades 7-12.

Alfonso Jones is fifteen years old, plays the trumpet, works as a bike messenger, loves his mother's Puerto Rican home cooking, and spends his free time visiting the sites in Harlem that are important to African-American history. His class at the Henry Dumas School of the Arts is planning to put on a hip-hop version of the play *Hamlet* and Alfonso would do anything to get the lead. But there is something more important on his mind; Alfonso's black father has been in prison these last fifteen years and he is finally being released after DNA evidence proved his innocence. At his mother's suggestion, he goes to a local department store to buy a suit for this special occasion, where he is shot and killed by a police officer who is answering a 911 call about someone with a gun. The white officer mistook the hanger Alfonso was holding for a gun. The person who had called 911 was referring to a different, white customer who was examining the store's BB guns. Deceased Alfonso finds himself in a sort of limbo where he learns the stories of others killed because of racial profiling and police brutality. Meanwhile, Alfonso's murder has sparked national protests and a media frenzy. Alfonso's classmates and teachers have meaningful and emotional discussions about the events and his mother's grief is authentically portrayed through the black and white drawings and poignant dialogue. The realistic reactions and conversations make this work heartbreaking. Adults can use it as a way to address these tough and relevant topics with teens. At the end of the novel, the author describes the circumstances surrounding the deaths of the real life characters in the book that Alfonso meets in the afterlife. I strongly recommend this book for all libraries.

Realistic Fiction/Graphic Novel

Amber Sams, Librarian, Saucon Valley HS

VANILLA

Merrell, Billy. *Vanilla*. New York: PUSH, 2017. 978-1-338-10092-1. \$17.99. Grades 10+.

A cute love story between two boys as they go through life together. The usual bumps occur throughout the relationship as they work to figure out what they each want from life. Their relationship begins to change, just as they do, when they get into high school. Hunter wants to be liked by everyone in the gay crowd at school, trying to fit in somewhere now that he's really and truly out with Vanilla. Vanilla wants their relationship to remain how it always has been, how it's worked for years, but Hunter's changing faster than Vanilla ever could. The pair love each other so much, but they fail to communicate that with the various pressures of peers within the high school crowd. As they work to communicate and navigate their way through a relationship and high school, the pair continuously feel as though they've grown apart before becoming closer than ever before. It's a great read for anyone struggling with relationships, fitting in, or understanding themselves and what they want from life. To break up the constant back and forth between Vanilla and Hunter's perspectives on their own relationship, Merrell puts in some other side characters' points of view on the pair's relationship and what they see. It really shows how people can view relationships, thinking everything's fine even when both are trying so hard to keep it from falling apart. People on the outside don't always know what's going on, which can lead them to be ignorant and rude simply because they just don't know. It was a nice way of almost justifying that friend that gets sick of hearing about their other friend's struggles with their significant other. That friend doesn't know how it feels or what it's like, and it was overall a good touch to the story.

Poetry/Realistic Fiction

Megan Meyer, Undergraduate, Kutztown University

MAMA LION WINS THE RACE

Muth, Jon J. *Mama Lion Wins The Race*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2017. 978-0-545-85282-1. \$17.99. PreK-K.

With its' colorful, detailed pictures and thoughtful morals, this heartwarming book immediately draws readers in. The story begins with Mama Lion and Tigey preparing for a race. Although excited and wanting to win, Mama Lion reminds Tigey that there are more important things in life than winning. The race time approaches, and everyone is off in their vehicles! Mama Lion and Tigey quickly take the lead, and as they travel Mama Lion can't help but notice how beautiful the world is around her. Suddenly, Mama Lion and Tigey realize they have lost a wheel! What will they do? Without missing a beat, the Flying Pandinis pull up alongside of Mama Lion and Tigey and help them fix their wheel. As the race resumes and they pull into first place, Mama Tigey gets an idea. Right before they cross the finish line, Mama Lion offers Tigey some words of wisdom about the race and life itself. Read to find out who wins the race! This book is great for discussing the difference between winning and losing and the importance of being a good friend.

Picture Book

Angela Davidheiser, Special & Elementary Ed student, Kutztown University

THE APPRENTICE WITCH

Nicol, James. *The Apprentice Witch*. New York: Chicken House, 2016. 978-1-338-11858-2. \$16.99. Grades 4+.

Arianwyn Gribble has been deemed an apprentice witch for the town of Lull by the Civil Witchcraft Authority (CWA). After going ungraded on her magic exam due to a strange burst of magic, Arianwyn feels unworthy of her position as an apprentice, which was obtained through some convincing on her grandmother's part. As she makes her way to her appointed town, one thing after another seems to go wrong for her. The mayor is against her and what she's trying to do for the people in the town and the creatures of the Great Woods next to the town. The people of Lull believe all spirits are demons out to get them, but Arianwyn knows better and refuses to let either party get harmed.

Things get stranger and stranger in the town of Lull when even the rarest of spirit creatures are making an appearance near the edges of the woods. When things for Arianwyn are starting to get better, a creature from the old myths of magic is suddenly discovered in one of the townspeople's farm shed. In pain and hated by the townspeople, the feyling named Estar begins hiding out in the old, abandoned mill in Lull to recover. She continues to help both the people of Lull and the creatures of the Great Woods with every task she gets assigned. As she helps everyone, Arianwyn stumbles upon a darkness plaguing the Great Woods and affecting those that reside in the town of Lull.

Fantasy Fiction

Megan Meyer, Undergraduate, Kutztown University

THE TRAITOR'S GAME

Nielsen, Jennifer A. *The Traitor's Game*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2018. 978-1-338-04537-6. \$17.99. Grades 7-12.

Be careful not to lose your way while twisting through the treacherous plots of traitors in this action-packed young adult novel! Kestra Dallisor is a daughter born into nobility, though estranged from her powerful and cruel father. After three years of isolation in the Lava Fields, Kestra receives a summons to return to her home, but during the journey back, she is taken captive and coerced into becoming a traitor against her own people. Simon, a young man who once worked in the palace and has a shadowy past history with Kestra is charged with posing as her guardian within the palace walls as she is forced to search for a legendary item to overthrow the kingdom. Kestra finds herself imprisoned in her own home on two fronts, on one by her evil father and on the other by a rebel faction forcing her into treachery. But is she in fact a traitor when her own people are corrupt? Kestra finds herself falling deeper and deeper into political intrigue and questioning everything she has ever believed in, including her own heritage. She's confused by Simon, and is inexplicably attracted to him, though they fight for opposing sides of this war. As the story progresses, Kestra begins to wonder if maybe she and Simon are not on such different footing after all. From beginning to end this book is filled to the brim with adventure, mystery and plot twists! There are quite a number of characters introduced throughout the story, but Nielsen does an excellent job of ensuring that each one has their impact of importance to the story, without being forgettable or causing confusion. This YA novel would be excellent for high school students that enjoy fantasy with elements of dark magic, knights, kingdoms, and political intrigue.

Fantasy/YA

Megan Keenan, Graduate Student, Kutztown University

REWIND

O'Doherty, Carolyn, *Rewind*. Pennsylvania: Boyds Mill Press, 2018. 1629798142. \$17.95. Grade 8+

Rewind is Ms. O'Doherty's debut novel. It is a sci-fi story set in what seems to be current time or perhaps a bit in the future. The main character, Alexander Manning, is a spinner. That is the name they give to children born with the ability to control time. Alex works with Agent Carson Ross. Most spinners work with an agent, such as Ross, to rewind and freeze time helping the police catch the criminals. In Alex's case, she rewinds time to allow the bomb squad time to locate the hidden bomb. Spinners are kept on a "leash" which is taken off only when they are with the police officer and are being allowed to control time. Since most people are afraid of what spinners can do, they are kept in the center where they are trained in their skills and monitored by Dr. Barnard and his staff. In addition to being "locked away," they are kept there to be medicated. Dr. Barnard medicates them to keep their Chronotin levels in check. Chronotin is the enzyme which spinners are born with that allows them to control time. Dr. Barnard regulates their Chronotin levels with medication called Aclisote. When spinners get older, around age 18, they often get "time sick." When this happens, death is typical within a year or so. Once they get time sick, they are no longer able to work with the police, they tend to hallucinate, and other symptoms take over. Alex, Agent Ross, and her fellow spinner friends learn that Dr. Barnard might not be as good and helpful to spinners as they were led to believe. Is Aclisote really helping them keep their Chronotin levels in line? Are high Chronotin levels really the cause of time sickness? Why don't any spinners live past the age of 20? Would society be safe if spinners were unleashed? I really enjoyed this story and hope this is only the first book in the *Rewind* series. The character development was very detailed, giving the reader a nice connection with the main characters. I want to know what happens to Alex, KJ, Agent Ross and the others. Is Dr. Barnard evil, is he doing what he feels is best for society, is he killing the spinners? This book is indicated as a teen/YA book. The main characters are all teenagers, so I tend to agree with this age grouping. Pre-teens might enjoy this also. There is nothing graphic and there is no sexual content.

Sci-Fi/Young Adult

Cassandra Hillegass, EdD. CCIU and Central Penn College

SHADOWHOUSE FALL

Older, Daniel Jose. *Shadowhouse Fall*. Arthur A. Levine Books, 2017. 978-0-545-95282-8. \$18.99. Grades 7-12.

In this sequel to *Shadowshaper*, we find sixteen-year-old Sierra Santiago mastering her skills as a Shadowshaper, one who uses ancient magic to create art (paintings, chalk drawings, etc.) which spirits will inhabit physically and then do her bidding. In the previous book, she learned that her family has a long legacy of shadow shaping and has been fighting evil for generations. Her grandfather had hid this power from her because he thought it was more appropriate for men, which infuriated her grandmother. Her grandmother held the position of Lucera, who was essentially the shadow shaping source, and passed this special power onto Sierra. Now, in the sequel, Sierra must defend her family and friends from new evil forces who feel threatened by the increase in the number of shadow shapers after Sierra initiated her friends and family. By using the powerful and mysterious Deck of Worlds, Sierra strengthens her “suit,” Shadow House, as they prepare to battle the other suits. She needs the help of some old shadow shapers from her grandfather’s time, but must remain skeptical of their loyalties. In addition to dealing with evil forces, Sierra, who is Puerto Rican, and her friends, who are black and Hispanic, also have to face police brutality and racial profiling. When an incident in school spirals out of control, the teens stage a large protest, mimicking what readers will have seen in the Black Lives Matter movement. This is a timely series and is recommended for libraries that serve young adults as it weaves social justice issues into a supernatural plot. Topics like racism, sexism, homophobia, and gentrification are all visited as Sierra and her friends and family fight for their lives against evil spirits and unfair and dangerous circumstances.

Realistic Fiction/Fantasy

Amber Sams, Saucon Valley High School Librarian

THE DOORWAY AND THE DEEP

Ormsbee, K. E. *The Doorway and the Deep*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books LLC, 2016. 978-1-45213-636-3. \$9.69. Grades 3-6.

Sequel to *The Water and the Wild*, this fantasy book continues to follow Lottie on her adventures to Limn. She rejoins her friends on Albion Isle, and works to escape the grasp of the Southerly King. Lottie travels to the Northerly Kingdom, where she learns more about her parents and her birthright. Lottie, Eliot, Oliver, Fife, and Adelaide must make a dangerous journey to save the wisps and get Elliot home. The ending of this story is primed for a third installment, and readers will be on their edge of their seats during the whole book. This story is similar to C.S. Lewis and *Alice in Wonderland* in some ways, and readers grow to care for Lottie and her friends. It is necessary to read the first book before reading this sequel in order to understand the back story. A great classroom library read for fantasy lovers and students reading on an independent level.

Fantasy

Brittany Harris, Graduate Assistant, KU

MARTI'S SONG FOR FREEDOM/ MARTI Y SUS VERSOS POR LIBERTAD

Otheguy, Emma, *Marti's Song for Freedom/Marti y sus versos por libertad*. 2017. Illustrated by Beatriz Vidal. NY: Lee & Low Books. 978-0-89239-375-6. \$17.95. Grades 3-5.

The story of Jose Marti and his passion for social justice and his love for Cuba is told beautifully in verse with excerpts from Marti's own writings. His *Versos Sencillos* is an example of his poetic style that sparked the "modernismo" literary movement. The illustrations support some of the lines of verse for each page, but not all. Readers cannot depend on the illustrations to support meaning. Because the phrases in the verses are somewhat complex, the Spanish to English is not always directly translated, but the message is preserved. The afterword that is provided in both English and Spanish gives a brief biography of Jose Marti, filling in details that were not included in the verses. This picture book weaves together an introduction to Cuban history, the use of free verse, and beautiful artistic renditions of the unfolding story of a brave political activist.

Nonfiction/Bilingual Picture Book

Dr. Mary Ann O'Neil, Professor Emeriti, Kutztown University

A GIRL NAMED ROSA: THE TRUE STORY OF ROSA PARKS

Patrick, Denise Lewis. Illus. Melissa Manwell. *A Girl Named Rosa: The True Story of Rosa Parks*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 2018. 978-1-338-19307-7. \$4.99. Grades 2-5.

A Girl Named Rosa is a simple biography of Rosa Parks. It is one in a series of American Girl books. The story begins with a basic introduction of Parks and why she is so important in American history. The six chapters walk the reader through the life of Rosa Parks and include her early years, school-aged years and into adulthood. Through each chapter of her life it also explains the climate of the times. The story has excellent, age-appropriate discussions and explanations of topics such as segregation, racism, civil rights and boycotts. There is a helpful glossary and timeline in the back of the book as well. At the very end of the book there is a current story of an inspirational little girl who is collecting books that include black girls as the characters. It talks about how she felt there was a lack in books and that she has created a book collection using the #1000blackgirlbooks. It is a fitting end to this inspirational, fun read. I would recommend this book and the rest in the American Girl series, to be on all public and school library bookshelves. I also feel it would be wonderful in personal book collections.

Biography

Erin Engler, Librarian, Whitehall-Coplay School District

WHO KILLED DARIUS DRAKE?

Philbrick, Rodman. *Who Killed Darius Drake?*. New York: The Blue Sky Press, 2017. 0545789788 \$17.99. Middle School Ages

Who Killed Darius Drake? is a middle grade mystery story. The story is told by his one friend, Arthur Bash. Arthur is the school bully. He will do pretty much anything other kids want him to do for a candy bar. This includes intimidating kids like Darius Drake. Darius, however, is not your typical kid. While he will do whatever Arthur tells him to do for that candy bar, Darius does not really care. He has not had an easy life and he does not let trivial things bother him. What does bother him is the letter he just received with the words "Who Killed Darius Drake?" written in blood. Darius decides to "hire" Arthur to help him find out who wrote the letter. The only clue they have is the return address on the envelope. It is the address of the scariest house in town, the abandoned house on Rutger's Road, the house even Arthur is a bit scared to go to. Reluctantly Arthur does go to the house and things really start going down hill from there. They meet Scar Man who lives close to the house on Rutger's Road in the Anthony J. Stompanado Housing Complex also known as Stomper Land. Strangers are not welcome in Stomper Land. Scar Man is just one of the many people they meet over the course of the story. Most of those they meet, they are not sure are trust worthy. They realize they have to fend for themselves. In time, Arthur's stepsister, Deirdre joins them in their quest to determine whom they can trust and who wrote the note. This story is quite fun to read and the mystery is not an easy one to solve. With so many characters who are not very trustworthy, the kids and the reader are often wondering who is lying and who is telling the truth. Darius, the kid who lost his parents and lives in the Stonehill Home for Children and Arthur are not your typical mystery solving team, but they make it work and find best friends in each other. Middle school kids who enjoy mysteries and a few laughs will surely enjoy this book. This reader is neither, but the book was highly enjoyed.

Mystery/Adventure

Cassandra Hillegass, EdD. CCIU and Central Penn College

DOG MAN AND CAT KID

Pilkey, D. *Dog Man and Cat Kid*. New York: Scholastic, 2018. 978-0-545-93518-0. \$9.99. Grades 2-5.

In this installment of the Dog Man books, the main character, Dog Man, is hired to protect a movie star. How will he work when he has a kitten to care for? Who is the sitter who arrives just in the nick of time to take care of the kitten so Dog Man can go to work? Who kidnaps the movie star? Who will help Dog Man solve the kidnapping mystery? Will Dog Man be able to solve the disappearance? Or will Petey, the World's Most Evil Cat, thwart his plan? Join Dog Man on a great adventure as he tries to solve the mystery and gains a sidekick in the process. The colorful illustrations are the perfect companion to the book and will engage the reader. The storyline is enhanced so readers will find themselves highly engaged with a feature of the book called Flip O' Rama. The multiple sets of Flip 'O Rama pages, make the photos look like an animated picture. This graphic novel, or the entire series, would be a great suggestion for a reluctant reader or a reader transitioning to chapter books. The appeal of the ridiculous plot twists are perfect for grades 2-5.

Humor/Graphic Novel

Cynthia Stunkard, Assistant Professor, Kutztown University

MARTIN RISING: REQUIEM FOR A KING

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. Illus. Brian Pinkney. *Martin Rising: Requiem for a King*. NY: Scholastic Press, 2018. ISBN 978-0-545-70253-9. \$19.99. Grades 4 – 12.

A requiem can be defined as a hymn, composition, or service for commemorating the dead. In the author's reflections for *Martin Rising: Requiem for a King*, Andrea Davis Pinkney shared that as she began to write this book, she searched her heart for ... "the way in." She wondered how she would be able to deliver Martin's heartbreaking story. "Soon, the portal that opens up to reveal its lighted path to a story shone brightly. This would be a requiem to honor Martin, and to illuminate the hope that rises out of darkness" (p. 116). She used evidence from a deep and wide variety of sources to compose poetic vignettes about this special leader, and then wrote the true story in a narrative form of poetry that the author calls "docu-poems." She presented the poems within three sections of the book: *Daylight*, *Darkness*, and *Dawn*. The first section, *Daylight*, describes the childhood and significant achievements and events in the life Martin Luther King from January 15, 1929 - April 1, 1968; then *Darkness* April 3 - 9, 1968 became evident in Memphis as he supported striking sanitation workers and delivered his prophetic "I've Been to the Mountain" address before his April 4 assassination ... which morphed into to a frenzied time and chaos; then *Dawn* became reality, April 1968 - Forever. Artist and illustrator Brian Pinkney captured the spiritual implications of the poetry by painting metaphorical illustrations with watercolor, gouache, and India ink on watercolor paper in his gifted style, inspired by artists such as the Russian-French impressionist, Marc Chagall, and the African-American abstract expressionist, Norman Lewis. Students and educators of all levels, and families in the community of lifelong learners could share this exquisite book in many ways, for myriad purposes. For example, in addition to reading, and perhaps responding to the book as long-term assignments and projects which could be completed individually, students could be guided to use the docu-poems while working with diverse, multi-sized groups in different content areas. They could develop skits, plays, and musical performances with feelings inspired by the poetry, woven with facts from the section of the book entitled *Now is the time* (pp. 118 – 121), a generous section of informational text that includes black-and-white pictures of people and events that provides historically significant details about the era. Also, readers could be informed by the *Time line* (122 – 123) entitled *Highlights in the life and times of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* to research and develop additional responses. The entire book can be used to set the stage for a variety of performances of the narrative docu-poems, and will prove to be an important resource for school and community libraries.

Nonfiction Poetry

Dr. Jeanie Burnett, professor emeriti, Kutztown University

DAMSELFLY

Prasad, Chandra. *Damselfly*. Honesdale: Calkins Creek, 2017. 978-0-62979-804-2. \$17.95. Grades 7-12.

This modern retelling of William Golding's classic *Lord of the Flies* will have young readers imagining how they would cope with being stranded in the middle of nowhere without adults or access to the outside world. With few recoverable belongings, Samantha and her private school classmates need to learn to survive after a plane crash leaves them vulnerable on a tropical island. There are many similarities between Prasad's novel and the classic: natural leaders emerge, but power struggles inevitably follow; the kids begin to turn against each other as their survival instincts emerge; desperate times call for desperate measures; no one is above death. Readers familiar with the classic will recognize the conch and the beast, and will be able to make comparisons between the characters in each version. However, the many adventures that occur in *Damselfly* are unique from the classic and the characters are well developed; readers will learn Samantha's backstory through flashbacks she has of her life growing up, and will be able to sympathize with her island plight through the eyes of someone who has battled her own figurative beasts. Throughout the survival story, Prasad weaves in modern adolescent issues, including popularity, bullying, romance, friendship, abuse, self-harming, and cultural differences. The ending is not as satisfying as Golding's version. *Damselfly* could be an addition to a text set related to *Lord of the Flies* or the topics of survival and human nature.

Realistic Fiction

Emily L. Hershey, Reading Specialist, Wilson High School

SPIDERS! STRANGE AND WONDERFUL

Pringle, Laurence. Illus. Meryl Henderson. *Spiders! Strange and Wonderful*. Honesdale: Boyds Mills Press, 2017. 978-1-62979-321-4. \$17.95. Grades 2-5.

This amazing informational book about spiders is useful both as a text to learn and study about these organisms and as an introduction to the system of classification of all organisms. Scientists estimate that more spider species are unknown than are known! 46,000 species have been identified, but there could be over 100,000 yet to be discovered! Many very interesting facts about these, mostly feared, creatures abound in this book; things like they inhabit every continent, except Antarctica, every biome, from sea level to Mount Everest (22,000 feet), and land, cave, and water; and the hairs on a spider's legs can detect smells, vibrations in the air, and even measure air's temperature and humidity. With beautiful enlarged pen, pencil, and watercolor illustrations of various spiders, their body parts, webs, or environments, the anatomy and habits become known. The close-ups of a spider's eight eyes with the various sizes and arrangements are particularly fascinating. Containing a glossary, index, and list of additional books, periodicals, and websites that are useful to learn more about spiders, this book is an excellent investment for learning more about these strange and wonderful creatures!

Nonfiction

Gayle R. Heath, Library Director, Tamaqua Public Library

THE ADVENTURES OF JOHN BLAKE: MYSTERY OF THE GHOST SHIP

Pullman, Philip. Fordham, Fred. *The Adventures of John Blake: Mystery of the Ghost Ship*. Oxford: Graphix. 2017. 978-1-338-14912-8. \$19.99. Grades 3-7.

Want eye-catching illustrations and pages overflowing with action? How about a ghost ship and captain that is doomed to roam through the centuries, searching for a place to call home? Then this adventure graphic novel is just the tale for you! Pullman has created a dynamic character, John Blake, a teenager cursed to roam the seas on a ghost ship as all the passengers aboard hope to one day find a place called home for each of them. John and his crew of ghostly men save a young girl, Serena, after a storm knocks her off her family's boat. Befit with hilarious decade differences brought up into conversation. The illustrations are detailed, though tend to be muted in color and won't really grab the attention of younger students. A small note, cuss words do appear throughout the story but I do not find that it takes away from the overall scene. It was a bit difficult for me to get into the dialogue and I can imagine that some younger students might lose interest in this read. I think this book was truly written for students above 3rd grade despite its inclusion in the age range. I'm unsure that it teaches many skills to gather and discuss from this read but rather is an exciting book for students to divulge in. Overall, I think it would be an interesting book to diversify a library in their classroom!

Graphic Novel

Devin Landis, Student, Kutztown University

SPACE BOY AND THE SNOW MONSTER

Regan, Diane Curtis. Illus. Robert Neubecker. *Space Boy and the Snow Monster*. Honesdale, PA: Boyd's Mill Press, 2017. 978154590789575. \$17.95. Grades: PreK-2.

This is the third Space Boy book in the trilogy. Although I had not read either of the previous titles (*Space Boy and His Dog*, *Space Boy and the Space Pirate*), I fell in love with Space Boy. This book celebrates the power of a child's imagination and the importance of free play. Space Boy Niko and his robot co-pilot take off for outer space, but are captured on Planet Ice by a snow monster (who bears an uncanny resemblance to Niko's sister, Posh). Comic-book style illustrations packed with detail and easy to read text make this a delightful read. This title could be used to introduce a makerspace or STEM lesson.

Picture Book

Sharon Breeden, Librarian, Lebanon School District

THE WORD COLLECTOR

Reynolds, Peter H. *The Word Collector*. New York: Orchard Books, 2018. \$ 17.99. 978-0-545-86502-9. Grades PreK-3

People collect all types of things, stamps, cars, rocks, bugs. Jerome is a young boy who collects words. He collects the ones that he hears, reads, or sees on slips of paper that he keeps in scrapbooks. They can come in all shapes and sizes. There are short and sweet words, two-syllable words, and long words. Jerome finds that when all the words are paired together they can make something more! He creates poems, songs, and uses them in positive, powerful ways. Soon he acquires so many of them that he decides to share them with everyone so they too can experience the joy of discovering words. The book reflects a positive message of a love of learning and collecting but also sharing your knowledge and bringing joy to others. The expressive art balances well with the creatively placed text. It would fit well in the collection at any school or public library.

Picture Book

Sara Moyer, Library Aide at Robeson Community Library

LIVE IN INFAMY

Richmond, Caroline Tung. *Live in Infamy*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2018. 978-1-338-11109-5. \$17.99. Grades 9-12.

A companion book to *The Only Thing to Fear* and *The Darkest Hour*, which all take place in the same universe, but told through different points of view, *Live in Infamy* is told from Ren's perspective. Ren is the son of a tailor whose mother was a traitor. Watching his traitorous mother get executed in public at a young age sparked a rage in Ren that was only calmed when he began to take part in the resistance through anonymously writing essays under the pseudonym 'The Viper.' Keeping this secret from his father, who turned into an obedient civilian after his wife was executed, is hard, especially when his house gets raided often by the Ronin Elite, the super-soldiers that won the war for the Axis Powers. But, when an opportunity arises for Ren to go undercover for the resistance, Ren agrees, even if it means his identity will be at risk. While this World War II alternative universe book offers an intriguing concept, it pales in comparison to other WWII 'au' books, such as *The Man in the High Castle* by Phillip K. Dick. Richmond, however, can create a striking and detailed world of what this alternative universe might look like if the Axis Powers had won the war. While Richmond is a fantastic world creator, readers might prefer to not take too much time and effort to fully diverge into the novel, since the basic storyline and concept of the book can be learned at a glance.

Science Fiction, Action

Alyssa Daney, Library Science Student, Kutztown University

BUNNY'S STAYCATION

Richmond, Lori. *Bunny's Staycation*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2018. \$17.99. 978-0-545-92589-1. PreK-K.

Richmond's picture book, tells the story of a young Bunny whose mother is going away on a business trip for a week. The Bunny is upset and does not want his Mama to leave, so he tries to come up with ways to help his experience become more enjoyable. His original thought is to go with his Mama but that is not allowed. Bunny then stays home with his Papa and counts down the days until his Mama is home. Throughout the week, Papa does a great job keeping Bunny occupied and busy to help him make it through the week. They go on many adventures throughout the week. The book introduces a situation that many young children may go through, having a parent going away on business. This book would make a great social situation book for children struggling with a parent leaving. This story provides its readers with a positive outlook on the situation and helps provide ideas on how to coop with the changes in life. The illustrations are colorful and inviting to the reader. Within the classroom, this book would be best used during a story time. This is a great addition to a children's book collection.

Picture Book

Erin Crawford, Undergraduate Student, Kutztown University

TINY AND THE BIG DIG

Rinker, Sherri Duskey. Illus. Matt Myers. *Tiny and the Big Dig*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2018. 978-0-545-90429-2. \$16.99. PreK-K.

Tiny is a small dog filled with a lot of determination and heart. Young readers are sure to fall in love with the story about this spunky little dog that wouldn't give up! The story begins with Tiny believing that he smells a bone underground, a very large bone. A bird comes to watch as Tiny begins his dig and the bird chides Tiny, saying that he is far too small to ever find anything in his hole. Next a cat lying on a rock laughs at Tiny saying that there probably isn't anything in the ground, and such a digging job is too big for so small a pup. Despite the nay-sayers, Tiny continues on page after page, digging and digging. His owner, a young boy comes along and instead of ridiculing, decides to encourage Tiny to keep going. Tiny turns to all the animals watching him and snickering and claims that he will find the large bone. To their surprise, Tiny digs up item after item... a wishbone, fish bone and even trombone! Even so, Tiny is relentless and carries on until he finds the item he's been smelling all along! The shocking twist to the end of this story will delight any young readers and the entire story will have them giggling and cheering on this bold pup named Tiny. The illustrations are vibrant and sweet, sometimes taking up an entire span of two pages without any text to demonstrate the depth of Tiny's crazy dig! In the end, this picture book is a wonderful lesson about perseverance and the power of encouragement.

Picture Book

Megan Keenan, Graduate Student, Kutztown University

THIS IS JUST A TEST

Rosenberg, Madeyn and Wendy Wan-Long Shang. *This is Just a Test*. Scholastic Press, 2017. 978-1-338-03772-2. \$17.99. Grades 6-9.

David Da-Wei Horowitz loves trivia and spends much of his free time with his best friend Hector playing Trivial Pursuit. He and Hector are not exactly part of the popular crowd, so it astonishes them when one of the coolest guys in the seventh grade, Scott, asks them to be on his team for the school trivia contest. David also has his bar mitzvah to prepare for, which includes appeasing his grandmothers. His Jewish grandmother is adamant that this will be the best event in family history while his Chinese grandmother is adamant that David's Chinese heritage will not be neglected. Underlying all of these events is the Cold War of the 1980s; David and his friends fear that a war is coming that will end life as they know it. This prompts Scott to dig a fallout shelter that he invites David to help with so they will have a place to go when the bombs are dropped. However, Scott says they cannot tell anyone about the shelter, including Hector, because their survival will depend on it. David finds himself staying quiet about a number of things with Scott, and this gnaws at his conscience. As the hole gets deeper, digging gets more dangerous, and after a very close call, David realizes he needs to speak his mind and do what he believes is right. This novel has many laugh-out-loud moments and moments that make you cringe as David deals with family drama, awkwardness around girls, and loyalty to friends. Many topics important to middle school age children and young adults are addressed, including divorce, cultural differences, peer pressure, and standing up to be kind. This book is highly recommended for libraries that serve middle school students and young adults.

Coming of Age/Multicultural

Amber Sams, Librarian, Saucon Valley HS

INEVITABLE AND ONLY

Rosinsky, Lisa. *Inevitable and Only*. Honesdale, Pennsylvania: Boyds Mill Press, 2017. 978-1-62979-817-2. \$17.95. Grades 7+.

Arcadia Rose is in her sophomore year of high school and while her family life might not be perfect, and she doesn't have a high school sweetheart yet, she is in the happiest time of her life. She joins drama club and is excited about trying out for the play, a Shakespearean classic that she and her dad had just seen together at the theater. Plus, she also gets her driver's permit. Cadie thought that running over a cat on her first day out driving with a permit would be the worst thing that could ever happen to her. Unfortunately, her week is about to get a lot worse. A secret that her dad thought would stay in the past turns up sixteen years later in the form of a teenage girl. This revelation turns her family and school life around. Her dad is sleeping on the couch every night, her brother is having trouble practicing for his cello competition, and her mom either ignores or makes snippy comments at her dad whenever she can. To make it worse, this girl who is the same age as her is coming to live with them and Cadie isn't sure how she is going to deal with sharing the same room with a stranger who is also her half-sister. Rosinsky creates a story about a teenage girl that is believable and compelling. Other teenagers will be able to relate to Cadie's story whether they are going through a possible parental divorce, a parent marrying someone with children, or the normal high school relationships that are bound to happen during the teen years.

Realistic Fiction, Coming of Age

Alyssa Daney, Library Science Student, Kutztown University

CAN YOU SING THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER?

Rustad, Martha E. H., Illus. Kyle Poling. *Can you sing the Star-Spangled Banner*”? Minneapolis: Millbrook Press, 2015. ISBN 978-1-4677-4469-0. \$6.95. Grades PreK-4.

In this paperback *Cloverleaf book* featuring American symbols, a music class of young children is shown learning about the history and meaning of some of the patriotic songs of the United States. As their music teacher plays the melody of the *Star-Spangled Banner* on the classroom piano, she shares important background about the war poem that became the national anthem of the United States of America. The format and conversational tone of this informational book invites readers to follow a simple music score of *The Star-Spangled Banner*, which is illustrated on the Table of Contents page and at the bottom of pages 10 – 17. The meaning of the lyrics of the poem-song is explained in conversational style in the story written above the song. Pertinent historic facts about the national anthem are written in flag-like boxes on many pages; plus, at the end of the book, children are given directions for writing a patriotic poem in an acrostic style; also, a glossary gives brief definitions for more than a dozen words used in the book. On the “To Learn More” last page of the book (p.24), participants are given a brief bibliography of suggested books and websites to follow for further information. Children, parents and teachers may also use the helpful Index to locate information quickly in this colorful book that could become an important and accessible book for young readers and their mentors.

Nonfiction

Dr. Jeanie Burnett, professor emeriti, Kutztown University

STOLEN SECRETS

Schulman, L.B. *Stolen Secrets*. Honesdale: Boyds Mills Press, 2017. \$17.95. 978-1-62979-722-9. Grades 9-12.

The story begins when Livvy's mother, a recovering alcoholic, moves them from Vermont to San Francisco to take a new job. Livvy soon discovers that there's another reason for the move: the grandmother she thought was dead is alive, though muddled by Alzheimer's, and living in this city. While getting to know her grandmother, Livvy finds an unlikely friend in Franklin D., and together they explore the city and the mysteries of her grandmother's life during the Holocaust. This mystery has connections to Anne Frank. When Livvy discovers some hidden diary pages, she realizes that they appear to have been written by Anne Frank during Anne's stay at Bergen-Belsen. How did her grandmother get them? Does this mean that her grandmother might be Anne Frank? Could she have escaped under a false identity? As Livvy and Franklin D. try to investigate this riddle, they encounter impediments from her mother, who relapses, and her grandmother's nurse, Vickie, whom she does not trust. Along the way, Livvy and her readers learn more about The Holocaust and its concentration camps. While investigating her own family history she must deal with the confusing thoughts of an Alzheimer patient and the difficulty of distinguishing dementia from reality. In the process, Livvy becomes a stronger and more independent young woman. This material is appropriate for high school students and anyone interested in learning more about The Holocaust.

Historical Fiction

Marge McCormick, Tamaqua Area Middle School

BABY MONKEY, PRIVATE EYE

Selznick, Brian and David Serlin. *Baby Monkey, Private Eye*. New York: Scholastic 2018. 978-1-338-18061-9. \$16.95. Grades PreK-3.

Brian Selznick has partnered with David Serlin in this adorable new graphic novel/picture book/chapter book. The pair wanted to bring the feel and heft of a chapter book to a much younger crowd, and Selznick's black & white pencil illustrations are just the vehicle for such a task. Baby Monkey is a private eye who solves five cases in this short chapter book for beginning readers. Each chapter is a complete case and follows the same steps from the introduction of the case, to Baby Monkey's trouble with putting on pants, to a snack, the clues, and the solution. Readers will catch on quickly that there are things that change in his office from one case to the next, and they will look for them. There is a key to these images in the back of the book. Although there is minimal text, the words that are included are big and bold, and the dialogue is surrounded by hand-drawn word bubbles. The repetition and predictability of the chapters are perfect for early readers, and the detail-rich illustrations bring Baby Monkey into the hearts of readers. This book is a must-have for every Selznick fan and every library. It would also make a wonderful addition to preschool and early elementary classrooms to encourage young readers with perhaps their very first chapter book, mystery, or graphic novel. "Hooray for Baby Monkey!"

Graphic Novel

Karen J. Wanamaker, Librarian, Kutztown University of Pa.

ABOUT FISH: A GUIDE FOR CHILDREN

Sill, Cathryn. Illus. John Sill. *About Fish: A Guide for Children*. Atlanta: Peachtree Publishers, 2017. 978-1-56145-988-9. \$7.95. Grades PreK-2.

About Fish is a nonfiction book that describes the characteristics of fish such as habitats, food, and physical traits in simple sentences. The effects of pollution and the corresponding conservation efforts are also featured toward the end. This book features beautiful, watercolor pictures of many types of fish that correspond to the information presented on the corresponding page. The name of each fish is also featured, and the last six pages of the book have more in-depth descriptions of the information described throughout the book. In addition, a glossary and suggested book and websites for additional reading are found on the last page. Overall, this book would be a great addition to any classroom and would be an easy way for students to complete research about fish and their characteristics. It is recommended for classroom use in a variety of grade levels.

Nonfiction/Picture Book

Zoe David, Undergraduate Student, Kutztown University

ABOUT FISH: A GUIDE FOR CHILDREN/SOBRE LOS PECES: UNA GUIA PARA NINOS

Sill, Cathryn. *About Fish: A Guide for Children/Sobre los peces: Una guia para ninos*. 2017. Illustrated by John Sill. Atlanta: Peachtree Publishers. 978-1-56145-989-6. \$8.95. Grades PreK-2.

Illustrations in *Sobre los peces/About Fish* are realistic and correspond and support the text in this introductory informational text on fish. The phrases and sentences are brief providing an opportunity to identify corresponding words in the translation (Spanish/English). The afterword gives additional information to expand on each illustration with more information about the habitats and behaviors of each fish. This makes this book useful for a range of grade levels of language learners. The glossary gives definitions of key terms in Spanish and in English.

Nonfiction/Bilingual Picture Book

Dr. Mary Ann O'Neil, Professor Emeriti, Kutztown University

ABOUT HABITATS: SEASHORES

Sill, Cathryn. Illustrator John Sill. *About Habitats: Seashores*. Atlanta: Peachtree Publishers, 2017. 978-1-56145-968-1. \$13.87. Grades K-3.

The author and illustrator work together in this informational picture book that shows the types of animals and insects that live on seashores around the world. The illustrator painted scenes from seashores based on real photographs, and the author included labels for plants and animals depicted on each page. The story uses simple language, which is great for younger readers. There are a variety of seashores featured and even some unlikely ones like a Northern Sea seashore. The *Seashore* book is part of the *About Habitats* series, written by the husband and wife duo. This book includes a map of all the continents and more in-depth information at the end about each page. Teachers in lower grades can use this as a model during a read-aloud for adding details to pictures, or drawing pictures of places they've been. Older elementary classrooms can use it as a start for coastal animal research, or studying what types of animals live at the seashore. Students will benefit greatly from seeing the different types of seashores other than sand and water at a public beach.

Nonfiction/Picture Book

Brittany Harris, Graduate Assistant, KU

GHOSTS OF ORDINARY OBJECTS: BONE'S GIFT

Smibert, Angie. *Ghosts of Ordinary Objects: Bone's Gift*. Pennsylvania: Boyds Mill Press, 2018. 1629798509. \$17.95. Grades 5+

Bone's Gift is set in southern Virginia coal-mining town. The year is 1942 and the USA has just entered WWII. Bone, (actual name Laurel Phillips), is 12 years of age and she has a gift similar to the gift others in her family have. Not everyone believes in the gifts her family has and not all those who do believe consider them gifts. For example, Bone's Aunt Mattie, believes they are the devil's work. Bone lives with her father, Baynard, until he enlists in the Army. Her mother died years prior from influenza. When her father heads off to the army, Bone is forced to go live with her Aunt Mattie, cousin Ruby, and Uncle Henry. Ruby is aware of the gifts, but she follows her mother's lead and is not very nice to Bone at first. In fact, Bone really only has a few friends, her best friend being Will. Will does not speak. He can speak, he has just chosen not to speak, and instead he writes his thoughts on papers. She has two other friends, Jake and Clay, but in no time, Will and the other boys leave school to become miners and help support their families. This leaves Bone with Ruby and her friends who are also rude to Bone. Bone has family across the river, which she likes to visit, but Aunt Mattie has refused to let her go there. Nothing has been the same since Bone's mother death. The main theme of the story is how Bone uses her gift, the ability to see how true situations played out in her head when she is touching an object. Bone desperately wants to know what really happened to her mother and she can do so by "asking" the yellow sweater of her mother's that she wears often. She is just scared to really know how her mother died. Was it the flu or do the gifts really kill as her Aunt Mattie believes they do? This is the first book in the Ghosts of Ordinary Objects series. The end of the book showed images of two more books being released in the next two years. *Lingering Echoes* will be released in 2019 and *The Truce* will be released in 2020.

Mystery/Supernatural

Cassandra Hillegass, EdD. CCIU and Central Penn College

CLAUDE: ON THE BIG SCREEN

Smith, Alex T. *Claude: On The Big Screen*. New York: Charlesbridge, 2017. 9781580897877. \$16.99. Grades: K-5.

Claude is a dog extraordinaire! Alex T. Smith's series about Claude, the ordinary dog with an extraordinary life, is appropriate for newly independent readers. In this title, Claude is able to sit in the movie director's chair as he casts his friends on the big screen after the movie loses its stars. Students will laugh out loud as they follow Claude's antics and peruse all of the cleverness in the details. Other titles highlight Claude in various places including the city, country, beach, circus, spotlight, big screen, and on the slopes.

Beginning Chapter Book/Humor

Sharon Breeden, Librarian, Lebanon School District

THE GREAT AMERICAN FOOT RACE

Speno, Andrew. *The Great American Foot Race*. Honesdale: Calkins Creek, 2017. \$17.95. 978-1-62979-602-4. Grades 3+.

In the late 1920s, Americans were enjoying the post-war days. It was a time of change and inventions, one of the biggest being the rise of the car. It eventually forced better roads to be built and thus the famous U.S. Route 66 was born with a long distance race to help promote it. The race, whose catchy nickname was the Bunion Derby, was a reflection of that ballyhoo spirit. Before major highways blanketed the United States there were just small dirt roads. The U.S. 66 Highway Association was created to fix this and ideas were tossed around on how to get Americans out of their homes and on the road. A committee member tossed out jokingly, let's put on a foot race! It became less of a joke and more of a concrete idea that grew to be a marathon race in 1928 organized with the help of the great sports promoter C. C. Pyle. The First International Transcontinental Foot Race was born and it drew 199 runners from all over the world to participate. They would run or race walk for a total of 3,400 miles from Los Angeles to New York City with only fifty-five men completing the course. It had its ups and downs, but showed the sheer force of will of those amateur athletes. The text is organized in easy to read chapters with great photos and other promotional souvenirs from the race. It is a well-researched work and provides resources in the back for the curious reader. The author includes a sources list, bibliography, index, and newspapers that Speno used for research. It is a perfect non-fiction title for the school or public library for any reader who is into the history of sports.

Non Fiction

Sara Moyer, Library Aide at Robesonia Community Library

BABY LOVES THERMODYNAMICS!

Spiro, Ruth. Illus. Irene Chen. *Baby Loves Thermodynamics!*. Charlesbridge, 2017. 9781580897686. \$7.99. Ages 0-3.

This colorful board book is the perfect way to introduce a very complex topic like thermodynamics to the youngest readers! The simple text explains how all living things get their energy from the sun, from an apple tree's growth to a baby eating an apple. The delightful double-page illustrations are bright and engaging for babies and toddlers alike.

Board Book

Megan Griesemer, Librarian, Carlisle Area School District

WINGS OF FIRE, THE GRAPHIC NOVEL: BOOK ONE, THE DRAGONET PROPHECY

Sutherland, Tui T., Illus., Mike Holmes. *Wings of Fire, the Graphic Novel: Book One, The Dragonet Prophecy*. NY: Graphix, an imprint of Scholastic Inc., 2018. ISBN 978-0-545-94215-7. \$12.99. Grades 4 – 6.

This vividly illustrated graphic novel sets the scene for book one of the Dragonet prophecy, and promises to be a real page-turner for young middle school adventure seekers who can follow descriptive dialogue that is presented in speech bubbles. The young dragonet warriors came to know each other when they were five eggs waiting to hatch into *Dragonets*. Once hatched, the young dragonets remained hidden under the mountain, as they became strong and clever fighters trained by the *Talons of Peace* for significant battles in their future. Like many youngsters, Clay observed, “The only good thing about growing up here is my friends!” As the dragonets grew, their personalities and warrior attributes emerged as they sparred with each other in preparation for the fierce battles of the war of three queens in their future. The book’s accomplished author and illustrator present the story in an excellent style that promises connections to many content areas.

Graphic Novel/Fantasy

Dr. Jeanie Burnett, professor emeriti, Kutztown University

CHASING KING'S KILLER: THE HUNT FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.'S ASSASSIN

Swanson, James L. *Chasing King's Killer: The Hunt for Martin Luther King Jr.'s Assassin*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2018. 978-0-545-72333-6. \$19.99. Grades 7-9.

History... murder... conspiracy... mystery... an unknown escaped criminal... a national political hero... all of these meet in *Chasing King's Killer: The Hunt for Martin Luther King Jr.'s Assassin*. Swanson takes readers on a journey through the lives of Martin Luther King Jr. and James Earl Ray, his assassin, until the fateful day the two meet. Then he unfolds the journey of Ray's run from the law and his eventual capture by the FBI. In plain language easily accessible to young readers, Swanson paints clear pictures of who each of these men are and what made them tick. Readers will be on the edge of their seats from the moment Ray makes his plan to kill King until he is eventually apprehended. What readers will never discover, however, is why Ray did what he did, or why he denied it until the day he passed away. This book is filled with detailed photos and illustrations of the personal and public lives of each of these men, the scene of the crime and the evidence against Ray, maps of Ray's travels, wanted posters, and other major events surrounding King's assassination. The final hundred pages of the book contain information about places to visit, political chronology, a timeline of Ray's life, source notes for each part of the book, and an extensive bibliography organized by topic. There is an index as well. This book is highly recommended for middle school and high school students who want to learn more about King and how he was murdered. It would also be an invaluable resource for teachers and librarians looking for additional resources on related topics.

Nonfiction

Emily L. Hershey, Reading Specialist, Wilson High School

I SURVIVED: THE CHILDREN'S BLIZZARD, 1888

Tarshis, Lauren. Illus. Scott Dawson. *I Survived: the Children's Blizzard, 1888*. New York: Scholastic, Inc., 2018. 978-0-545-91977-7. \$4.99. Grades 3-5.

Tarshis' book, brings to life the chills and fears of living through a deadly blizzard in America's Midwest. True to her other *I Survived* books, Tarshis brings to life the experiences of John Hale, a fictional 11-year-old boy, who moved from Chicago with his parents and younger sister in hopes of a better life. His family quickly learns that they must provide for themselves on the Dakota prairies without the conveniences of local grocery stores. As his family grows in these abilities, John's family learns how the weather can cause devastating effects sometimes unexpectedly. John also discovers the challenges of living as a newcomer and readers will easily connect with the joys and hardships of making new friends. Readers of all ages will enjoy the engaging storyline as they discover what it would have been like to live in the late 1800's on the Dakota prairies and experience an overwhelming blizzard.

Historical Fiction

Kimberly Andersen, Principal, Eastern Lancaster County School District

OLD MACDONALD HAD A... ZOO?

Trapani, Iza. *Old MacDonald Had a ... Zoo?*. Watertown: Charlesbridge Publishing, Inc., 2017. 978-1-58089-729-7. \$16.99. PreK-K.

This is a creative take on the classic song that will have students laughing out loud. The story begins the familiar song with the farmer and his cow, but soon there are kangaroos, zebras, monkeys, kangaroos, and a crocodile creating havoc around the farm. Readers follow the farmer around as he performs his daily chores, and meets his various guests. Eventually, the farmer is fed up and he takes all of the animals back to the zoo. Children are sure to love the vibrant illustrations and hilarious events that transpire in this book. At the end of the book, the musical version is provided so that the teacher can play and the children can sing along. The back cover features a newspaper article that says "Zoo Animals Escape" and features pictures and descriptions of all of the missing animals. This picture was a creative touch and would be useful to use when teaching students how to predict when previewing a book. Overall, this book would be a great fit for a preschool or kindergarten classroom and will provide an additional option for teachers looking to introduce their students to new but familiar stories.

Picture Book

Zoe David, Undergraduate Student, Kutztown University

PLANETS

Tuchman, Gail. *Planets*. New York: Scholastic Inc., 2014. 978-0-545-57270-5. \$3.99. Grades 1-3.

Tuchman's *Planets* is filled with a variety of information about planets along with vivid pictures that show the details of each of the planets. Planets in the solar system as well as other identified planets are discussed. Many pages feature fun facts and creative text displays which make the text more engaging. The first page of the book has a link to digital activities that students can complete in conjunction with reading this book. Overall, this book features a lot of specific information, so it may be overwhelming for younger readers. This title would be beneficial for research in upper elementary classrooms, and the glossary and index will help students to find the information that they need. It is recommended for students to learn more about the planets and the appealing visual aids make it even more engaging for students as they complete research about space.

Nonfiction

Zoe David, Undergraduate Student, Kutztown University

DREAMING OF YOU

VanDerwater, Amy Ludwig. Illus. Aaron DeWitt. *Dreaming of You*. Honesdale: Boyd Mills Press, 2018. 978-1-62979-212-5. \$17.95. Grades K-1.

Dreaming of You is a beautifully written and illustrated bedtime story. The imagery, both through the illustrations and words, conjures up some ideas anyone would like to take with them when going to bed. The story begins with everyone in bed getting ready to dream. It shows the animals sleeping on the first few pages. Then there is a two-page spread devoted to each animal and the sweet things they are dreaming about throughout the night. The story takes us from kittens lapping fresh milk in an old dairy barn to robins dreaming of twiggy nests and fireflies dreaming of dark summer meadows. As the story details each of the ten animals every page ends with what the animals wants to do for you, the reader, such as the puppy wanting to cuddle up on the quilt on your bed. The adorable, unique, mixed media illustrations visually add so much to the story. Each two-page spread is specific to the animal and is in a beautifully set scene that everyone can enjoy. This book would come highly recommended as a bedtime story for younger children. It would make a great addition to any public, school, or personal library

Picture Book

Erin Engler, Librarian, Whitehall-Coplay School District

AND SHE WAS

Verdi, Jessica. *And She Was*. New York: Point, 2018. 978-1-338-15053-7. \$18.99. Grades 9-12.

And She Was is a coming-of-age novel about a young adult whose unexpected discovery about her mother's true identity forces her on a journey to find herself. Dara has just turned eighteen and is hoping to launch a career as a professional tennis player. However, her mother, Mellie, is unable to afford much and is resistant both to Dara's pursuit of the sport as well as her need to obtain a passport for professional travel. Desperate, Dara sneaks into Mellie's room to find her birth certificate, only to discover that Mellie was born Marcus; Dara's biological mother, Celeste, died in an accident when she was only 6 months old and Marcus transitioned shortly after that. Head spinning, Dara accuses Mellie of selfishly lying and keeping her away from her extended family. She sets off on a road trip south with her best friend, Sam, on a quest to meet her grandparents and learn more about her mom. During her journey, Mellie writes her emails explaining the whole story, and Dara comes to learn that not all is as it seems. Verdi puts an interesting spin on LGBTQ issues for a young adult novel by using the backstory of a parent, rather than a teen's own experiences, to illustrate what it is like to come to terms with one's own gender identity. This gives readers the unique opportunity to hear multiple perspectives- that of a transgender person and that of a cisgender supporter.

Realistic Fiction

Emily L. Hershey, Reading Specialist, Wilson High School

BLOOD BROTHER: JONATHAN DANIELS AND HIS SACRIFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

Wallace, Rich and Sandra Neil Wallace. *Blood Brother: Jonathan Daniels and His Sacrifice for Civil Rights*. Calkins Creek, 2016. 978-1-62979-094-7. \$18.95. Gr. 6+.

This work follows the life of civil rights activist, Jonathan Daniels, from his birth in 1939 in Keene, NH, to his tragic murder in Hayneville, AL in 1965. The book is excellently organized with a table of contents, research notes from the authors, timeline, bibliography, additional sources of information, index, and picture credits. The photos throughout the book of the civil rights events of that era are plentiful and large, giving readers a visual understanding of the time. Text of letters and articles written at the time are also sprinkled throughout the book, making this a nice primary source collection. The authors include many quotes from people who knew Daniels, other prominent figures (both for and against the civil rights movement), and Daniels himself. The book is written in language that could be easily understood by middle school age students, but also tells a compelling story that will interest readers of all ages. Daniels, who was white, had a mischievous and positive attitude and marched to the beat of his own drum. He was devoted to his family, God, and the idea that all people are created equal. Students will appreciate the stories of how he followed his heart, even if it meant neglecting his school work in both a military academy and seminary. He worked to improve the lives of blacks in the south, participated in various marches and protests, and was eventually jailed for these actions. He died selflessly saving the life of a black teenager. His dedication to social justice in a time and place where it was vastly unpopular will help students realize their own potential to be up-standers and not bystanders in the face of injustice. This book is highly recommended for all libraries.

Non-Fiction/Biography

Amber Sams, Saucon Valley High School Librarian

BOUND BY ICE: A TRUE NORTH POLE SURVIVAL STORY

Wallace, Sandra Neil and Wallace, Rich. *Bound by Ice: A True North Pole Survival Story*. Honesdale, PA: Calkins Creek, 2017. 9781629794280. \$17.95. Grade 6-12.

Brave? Stupid? Egotistical? These and other flattering, and not so flattering words describe not only the crew of the U.S. expedition steamer – The Jeannette, but also the people that planned the ill-fated North Pole expedition in 1879. The excursion was supposed to find a route to the North Pole via a ‘tropical current’ that was ice free, instead over half the crew members perished and the ship was lost. There have been several books written about this expedition led by Captain George W. De Long, and this young reader’s edition – *Bound by Ice* is every bit as good as any adult version. The book follows the adventures of Captain De Long and his crew as they make their way to the North Pole. They all leave behind some kind of family, and even a newborn for the experience of a lifetime. Right from the start the expedition was met with setbacks. The Jeannette was sent to look for a missing ship, causing an unnecessary delay. Along the journey, the crew suffered lead poisoning due to solder leaking into the canned provisions. Equipment failures and several other calamities occurred on board. The greatest of which was being trapped in ice for more than a year. Imagine being at the mercy of going wherever the ice takes you. The ice gripped the ship like a vice, and eventually crushed the ship. This led to a desperate attempt to reach land and make an overland journey to get help. Grueling weather, lack of food and clothing led to the demise of many crew members including Captain De Long. Several crew members did survive and even continued their careers in the Navy. Was the expedition a total disaster? Not really, many valuable experiments were conducted, new lands were discovered, and the reader gets to read about stories of courage, and what man is capable of doing to survive. This is a great book that should find a home in any library.

Nonfiction

Steve Tichy, Cataloger, Tamaqua Public Library

THE BOXCAR CHILDREN: THE LEGEND OF THE IRISH CASTLE

Warner, Gertrude Chandler. Illus. Anthony Van Arsdale. *The Boxcar Children: The Legend of the Irish Castle*. Chicago: Albert Whitman & Company, 2016. 978-0-8075-0705-6. \$15.99. Grades 1-5.

Mystery, suspense, and curiosity lead to an exciting adventure in Ireland for the Alden children. Warner's classic tale of *The Boxcar Children* continues with Grandfather and the Alden children enjoying a vacation in Ireland at a castle on the outskirts of Dublin. Jessie shares Irish folklore from a book that she had been enjoying when their hostess sets the stage for the mystery in the story. She tells about the banshee that is believed to haunt old Irish families even the family that lived in the castle now turned hotel where they are staying. Very aware of their surroundings and the things that are occurring with individuals around them, the Alden children try to solve the mystery of the banshee that has appeared two nights in a row on the grounds outside their window. The curious reader will find it hard to put this book down in the desire to know what is truly happening at this castle in Ireland. Readers will also enjoy the facts about Ireland that are shared after the story in this hard copy of the book. Another enjoyable read from Gertrude Chandler Warner that the whole family can enjoy together.

Fiction/Mystery

Kimberly Andersen, Principal, Eastern Lancaster County School District

THE BOXCAR CHILDREN: THE MYSTERY OF THE WILD WEST BANDIT

Warner, Gertrude. Illus. Anthony VanArsdale. *The Boxcar Children: The Mystery of the Wild West Bandit*. Chicago: Albert Whitman & Company, 2014. 978-0-80758-725-0. \$5.99. Grades 2+.

The Boxcar Children are at it again; this time venturing into the Wild West! Henry, Jessie, Violet, and Benny travel to Texas to visit their grandfather's friends Bart and Nellie who run the town of Wild Crossings. The children have a great time helping with the Wild West Festival. However, soon things start to go wrong. Trigger the trick horse is stolen, cattle escape their pen, and someone even jumbles the costumes right in the middle of the play! The Boxcar Children learn that a real estate agent, named Jasper Beebe, has been trying to buy the town of Wild Crossings and won't take "no" for an answer. Will the Boxcar Children be able to find the bandit before they ruin the Wild West Festival? Fans of mysteries and the rest of the Boxcar Children series will enjoy this action filled Wild West adventure.

Mystery

Kelsey Means, Teacher, ELANCO School District

OH, BROTHER!: BRAT ATTACK!

Weber Jr., Bob and Jay Stephens. *Oh, Brother!: Brat Attack!*. Kansas City: amp! Comics for kids, 2015. 978-1-4494-7225-2. \$9.99. Grades 2-3.

This collection of comics tells the tale of a young boy named Bud and his older sister Lily as they go about their daily lives. Children and adults alike will enjoy the whacky and familiar antics of these two siblings. Though the comics do not follow a sequential order, the reader gets a thorough sense of the trouble that Bud gets himself into with his big sister on a regular basis. Despite all of his annoying hijinks, it's clear that Bud loves his sister immensely, and she him. The art style for this graphic novel is extremely bright and colorful, with characters that seem to leap right off the page. What's particularly interesting with this collection of comics is that parents are never present, it is simply Bud and Lily (along with some of their animal and kid friends). Their parents are alluded to in several of the panels, but they are never physically present, which enhances the childish charms of these comics. At the back of the book, there are several bonus comic panels that also double as "Spot the Difference" games. Elementary students are sure to sympathize with the plights of having a younger sibling (or even being the troublemaking, younger sibling), and will be left laughing on every page!

Graphic Novel

Megan Keenan, Graduate Student, Kutztown University

HEY SEYMOUR!

Wick, Walter. *Hey Seymour!*. Scholastic, 2015. 9780545502160. \$18.99. Grades PreK-5.

The "I Spy" and "Can You See What I See" author has created another outstanding seek-and-find book using his familiar character, Seymour, and a new dog named Buttons. The pages are durable, heavy cardstock and the colorful scenes are beautifully photographed. Each of the 10 jumbo double-wide photos expands even further, folding up or out to reveal a new, related image. The rhymes and riddles keep young children and adults equally engaged.

Picture Book

Megan Griesemer, Librarian, Carlisle Area School District

NOT ON FIFTH STREET

Wiechman, Kathy Cannon. *Not on Fifth Street*. Honesdale: Calkins Creek, 2017. 978-1-62979-804-2. \$17.95. Grades 4-7.

Wiechman has once again written a novel which will engross young people in a moment in American history through accessible language and interesting detail. As she explains in the author's note, Wiechman based this fictional story on her family's own experience in the Flood of 1937, when the Ohio River overflowed, taking the lives of people in thirteen states. *Not on Fifth Street* centers around two brothers, Pete and Gus- one with brawn and one with brains- who find themselves torn apart emotionally by their differences and torn apart physically by the rising waters of the Ohio River. The Brinkmeyers think the water cannot touch them all the way out on Fifth Street- but when the water reaches the second floor, Pete has to be the man of the family, making the tough decisions until Gus and his father arrive home from working on sandbag barriers- if they make it at all. Readers will be drawn in by Wiechman's depictions of the power of water, the power of friendship, and the power of love to make one do incredible things. Young adults will easily be able to relate to what Pete and Gus are going through. This book is recommended for the upper elementary or middle school classroom or library to pair with other books surrounding American life in the past.

Historical Fiction

Emily L. Hershey, Reading Specialist, Wilson High School

RAPUNZEL

Woollvin, Bethan. *Rapunzel*. Atlanta: Peachtree Publishers, 2017. 978-1-68263-003-7. \$16.95. Grades K-3.

Looking for a witty and shifty-eyed princess to add to your fairytale retelling collection? Well, Bethan Woollvin has got you covered! In Woollvin's self-illustrated book we see the story of a classically beloved princess unfold into an independent and dark tale, spun within 32 pages. The minimalist color scheme and simple drawings are sure to enchant students from Kindergarten and beyond. This Rapunzel retelling takes the damsel in distress card and completely rewrites it! This book is excellent for discussing choices, decoding facial expressions, deciphering body language and helping out those in need. This book is also excellent to use as a comparison to the original story or another retelling! This story is an excellent addition to any fairytale lover's library and classroom that wants to fuel magic with fairytales!

Picture Book

Devin Landis, Student, Kutztown University

THE MARVELWOOD MAGICIANS

Zahler, Diane. *The Marvelwood Magicians*. Boyds Mills Press, 2017. 9781629797243. \$16.95. Grades 4-7.

This story is perfect for any middle-grade reader looking for magic and mystery. The Marvelwood family travels with carnivals to hide the fact that they have real magical abilities. Each member of the family has a different talent: casting illusions, disappearing, reading minds, and seeing the future. However, eleven-year-old Mattie just wants to be normal. The Marvelwoods join Master Morogh's Circus of Wonders, where they find a welcoming community of performers. Master Morogh has a terrible secret, though, and Mattie and her family must find a way to stop him before it's too late. The book is engaging and gripping, with the underlying themes of courage, loyalty, and the importance of being true to yourself.

Fiction

Megan Griesemer, Librarian, Carlisle Area School District

THE PROMISE

Bat Zvi, Pnina. Wolfe, Margie. Illus. Isabelle Cardinal. *The Promise*. Toronto: Second Story Press, 2018. 177260058. \$18.95. Ages 7-10

The Promise is a non-fiction children's book about two sisters who survived being in the Auschwitz concentration camp. The authors of this book are the children of Toby and Rachel. The name of the story, comes from the promise Toby made to her parents the day they were taken away by the Nazis. Their mother gave Toby a tin with three gold coins inside. Toby promised that she would keep the coins safe and use them only when she had to do so for something important. Rachel, Toby's sister was not at home the night her parents were taken so she never got to say goodbye to them. One night at Auschwitz, Rachel became ill. Toby pleads for Rachel to be allowed to rest, and she tells the Nazis she will do double work, but her pleas are not considered. Later that night when Toby returns to Barrack 25, Rachel is gone. Toby hears the words of her friends, but she will not listen to them. She needs to find Rachel and save her. She finds out where Rachel is being held and she goes off to save her. She uses the gold coins to get Rachel freed and they return to Barrack 25. The next day when Rachel shows up for roll call, things do not go well for Toby. She confesses and is punished, but the guard lets Rachel stay with Toby in their barracks. The coins are gone, but the promise is kept. The illustrations, by Isabelle Cardinal, are done using a digital collage technique. This unique technique really worked for this story. The darker somber tones expressed the sadness and dark feelings of those the story is about. There is no explicit content that would be upsetting, but in order for children to understand what Rachel and Toby were experiencing, some WWII and Holocaust knowledge would be needed beforehand.

Picture Book/Non-Fiction

Cassandra Hillegass, EdD. CCIU and Central Penn College

Instructions For Submitting Book Reviews

After you have read the books you have selected, please follow the instructions provided for writing and submitting your book reviews. Please include ALL information and do not skip any criteria. If a review is incomplete, it will not be used.

1. Plagiarized book reviews will not be accepted.
2. Submit reviews in Microsoft Word format (.docx or .doc). If a program other than MS Word is used to write the reviews, please save the files as "rtf" or "rich text format" files. **All reviews should be in the same document** you should be sending **one attachment** with all of your reviews in it. Reviews should be emailed to libsci@kutztown.edu.

**If you have ANY questions about how to write. Format. or submit your reviews please email the graduate assistant at libsci@kutztown.edu and ask.*

3. The following are examples of **genre/format**: Adventure, Animal Story, Autobiography, Biography, Board Book, Chapter Book, Coming of Age, Drama, Fairy Tale, Fantasy, Fiction, Folktale/Legend, Graphic Novel, Historical Fiction, Horror, Humor, Mystery, Mythology, Nonfiction, Picture Book, Poetry, Realism, Romance, Science Fiction, Short Stories, Sports. These are examples, you are not limited to them.
4. Once the reviews are finished, send them in an email, as a single attachment, to libsci@kutztown.edu with your last name and Book Review in the subject line. Please save a copy of your reviews until they have been published.
5. **Below** is an example of a proper citation and review and its components:

Author Last Name, First Name. Illus. Illustrator First and Last Name. Title. City of Publisher: Publisher, Copyright Year. ISBN.\$Price of Book. Grade Level.

If the illustrator is not named or if the author is also the illustrator your citation does not need the illustrator information. Your review should give a brief summary of the book. **Do not use the words "I" or "we" or "you"**. A good review should be between 150-300 words. The last sentence or two should tell what you thought about the book (without saying "I liked this book...". You can also include how the book could be used in a library or classroom.

Genre/Format

Name, Position, School

EXAMPLE:

Wiesner, David. *Tuesday*. New York: Clarion Books, 1991.0395870828. \$14.13.PreK-1

Wiesner's *Tuesday*, a Caldecott Medal winner, is a nearly wordless picture book that depicts the strange events of a Tuesday evening through stunning watercolor pictures. Beginning around 8:00 Tuesday evening, the first page shows a three panel picture of a quiet pond where a turtle sits on a log. What seems quiet and serene drastically changes with the flip of a page when frogs rise from the pond on floating lily pads, above the now frightened turtle. The frogs take flight to a nearby neighborhood where they chase birds and scare dogs, confuse a man eating his late-night snack and watch some television in an old woman's home. As morning approaches the frogs fly back to the pond, abandon their magical lily pads and leap back into the pond. The reader is left to wonder what might happen next Tuesday evening, when pigs fly. Wiesner's stunning watercolor pictures are rich in color and elaborately detailed. Young children with growing imaginations will love this book, as they can create the story to go along with the pictures. This is a great text to engage children who cannot yet read, or are just learning to read, as a way to support emerging literacy skills. *Tuesday* is a must have for every children's book collection.

Picture Book; Fantasy

Lindsay Bowman, Graduate Student, Kutztown University

The Department of Library Science and Instructional Technology sends your book reviews to the **Children's Literature Comprehensive Database (CLCD)**. This database is a national collection of professional book reviews. To ensure your review is included in this database we are asking that each review be written completely and professionally. When writing your review make sure it is a review you would find helpful if you wanted information about the book. Any reviews that do not meet these criteria will not be included in the database. On the following page, you will find some general guidelines that will tell you what the CLCD is looking for in a review.

General Guidelines (from the Children's Literature Comprehensive Database)

Every review should have three essential components: a strong opening that invites further reading; a summary of content or plot; and an evaluation that assesses how well an author presents the material, creates believable characters, and serves the target audience. The evaluation is by far the most useful portion for collection developers. Presenting this information in one short paragraph enables the reader to understand both content summary and the evaluation.

- a. **Stay within the limit of 150-300 words** (the review may approach 600 words when reviewing an Encyclopedia). Anything less than 150 words is merely an annotation.
- b. **Use present tense, active voice when writing a review, unless** when writing about events in history for nonfiction reviews. **Avoid the use of "you"** whenever possible, instead **use third-person point of view**.
- c. Reviews should **follow a logical progression of thought**.

- d. **When citing an author, use only the last name.** The full name appears in the header containing bibliographic information. It is also unnecessary to repeat the title within the review, a practice that also wastes word count.
- e. **Include the names and roles of the main characters** and be sure to **identify their general or specific ages** (i.e. eleven-year-old, middle schoolers).
- f. Try to **limit pulling quotes** from the book. Doing so often wastes words and is an example of "telling", not "showing."
- g. **Avoid repetition** of word and thought. Rereading your review and editing can help solve this problem.
- h. **When using the word "this," make sure that there is a noun attached to it** to avoid confusion, lack of clarity. "This is an example of bad writing." "This review exemplifies good writing."
- i. **Provide comparisons or alternatives where appropriate**, especially when a book is not recommended. Book A does not fulfill its purpose effectively. Recommend Book B or C instead.
- j. **Always proofread your work and edit. Then read it again. And again.**

**THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR
PARTICIPATING IN THE SPRING BOOK
REVIEW!**

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU
IN THE SPRING!**

The Department of Library and Learning Technologies

