



Children's Choices for 2004

A project of the International Reading Association and the Children's Book Council

Logo illustration © by Tomie dePaola

What is the Children's Choices project?

Each year 10,000 schoolchildren from different regions of the United States read and vote on the newly published children's and young adults' trade books that they like best. The Children's Choices for 2004 list is the 30th in a series that first appeared as "Classroom Choices" in the November 1975 issue of *The Reading Teacher (RT)*, a peer-reviewed journal for preschool, primary, and elementary levels published eight times a year by the International Reading Association (IRA). This list is designed for use not only by teachers, librarians, administrators, and booksellers, but also by parents, grandparents, caregivers, and everyone who wishes to encourage young people to read for pleasure.

Children's Choices is a project of a joint committee supported by IRA and the Children's Book Council (CBC). IRA is a nonprofit educational organization whose members include classroom and reading teachers, school administrators and super-

visors, parents, college/university faculty, and others who are dedicated to improving reading instruction and promoting literacy worldwide.

The Children's Book Council is the nonprofit professional association of U.S. publishers and packagers of books for young people. It encourages childhood literacy through sponsorship of national programs including Young People's Poetry Week and the 95-year-old annual observance of Children's Book Week, as well as working cooperatively with other professional associations.

In 1969, IRA and CBC formed a liaison committee to explore areas of mutual interest to reading teachers and publishers. Among the committee's initial charges was the development of a core selection of trade books for the classroom. This list of Children's Choices has remained an important activity of the committee, which each year produces this child-selected bibliography identifying titles that can be used successfully in reading programs, can be related to the classroom curricula, and are known to engage children.

How are books selected and annotated?

More than 650 books were evaluated by children for Children's Choices for 2004. The books tested were selected by publishers from the books they published in 2003 and were sent to five review teams located in different regions of the United States. Each team consisted of a children's literature specialist plus one or more classroom teachers who in turn worked with other classroom teachers, school librarians, and more than 2,000 children. Throughout the school year the books were in classrooms, being read to or by children.

Children's votes were tabulated in March, and the top 99 titles for 2004 were announced at the annual International Reading Association Convention in May. The review teams provided an annotation for each title on the list.

What bibliographic information is provided?

Books selected for the Children's Choices list have been grouped by reading levels:

- Beginning and young readers (grades K–2)
- Intermediate readers (grades 3–4)
- Advanced readers (grades 5–6)

Users should note that many books read easily by beginning readers are also enjoyed by more advanced readers, and many titles for advanced readers are accessible to younger readers or can be read aloud in the classroom.

The title, author, illustrator, publisher, ISBN (International Standard Book Number), and price are provided for each book as well as a brief annotation prepared by a review team. All books listed are hardcover unless otherwise noted. Prices are accurate as of late spring 2004; they are subject to change without notice. These abbreviations are provided for easy reference:

- Ill. illustrator of the book
- pp. page count
- ISBN identifies books and facilitates purchasing titles from bookstores, wholesalers, or publishers
- (library) the ISBN, followed by the price, for the library edition of a book

- (trade) the ISBN, followed by the price, for the edition of the book available from booksellers
- Pb. a paperback book
- F. paperback is forthcoming but not yet available

All books on this list should be available through your local library or a local bookseller.

Beginning and young readers

Albert's Impossible Toothache

Barbara Williams. Ill. Doug Cushman.

Despite his family's disbelief, Albert Turtle insists he has a toothache. Grandmother Turtle, however, has just the solution. Readers who have ever been misunderstood by their families will relate to Albert's situation. (Team 3)

Candlewick Press. 40 pp. ISBN 0-7636-1723-7 (trade). US\$15.99. CAN\$22.99.

Annie Was Warned

Jarrett J. Krosoczka. Ill. by the author.

On Halloween night, Annie is warned about going to the haunted old mansion. However, Annie is not scared at all. After all, she was born on Halloween, wasn't she? The ending is sure to astonish and delight readers. (Team 3)

Knopf Books for Young Readers/Random House Children's Books. 30 pp. ISBN 0-375-81567-8 (trade). US\$15.95. CAN\$23.95.

Baby Food

Saxton Freyman. Ill. Joost Elffers.

There's one surefire way to get kids to eat their fruits and veggies: Transform them into baby animals. Lemons become bear cubs, potatoes become ducklings, and pears become chicks—nutrition never looked so colorful and downright cute. (Team 2)

Arthur A. Levine Books/Scholastic Press. 32 pp. ISBN 0-439-11017-3 (trade). US\$12.95. CAN\$19.99.

Billy's Bucket

Kes Gray. Ill. Garry Parsons.

Younger readers enjoy the original, humorous concept of this story—a child's yearning for a bucket for his birthday. When Billy finally gets his prized bucket, he discovers amazing sea creatures dwelling in it, much to his parents' surprise. (Team 5)

Candlewick Press. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7636-2127-7 (trade). US\$15.99.

Bubble Bath Pirates!

Jarrett J. Krosoczka. Ill. by the author.

A bathtub becomes an ocean of adventure for two young boys. Washcloths are sails and the cannon is the sound of the pulled plug emptying the tub.

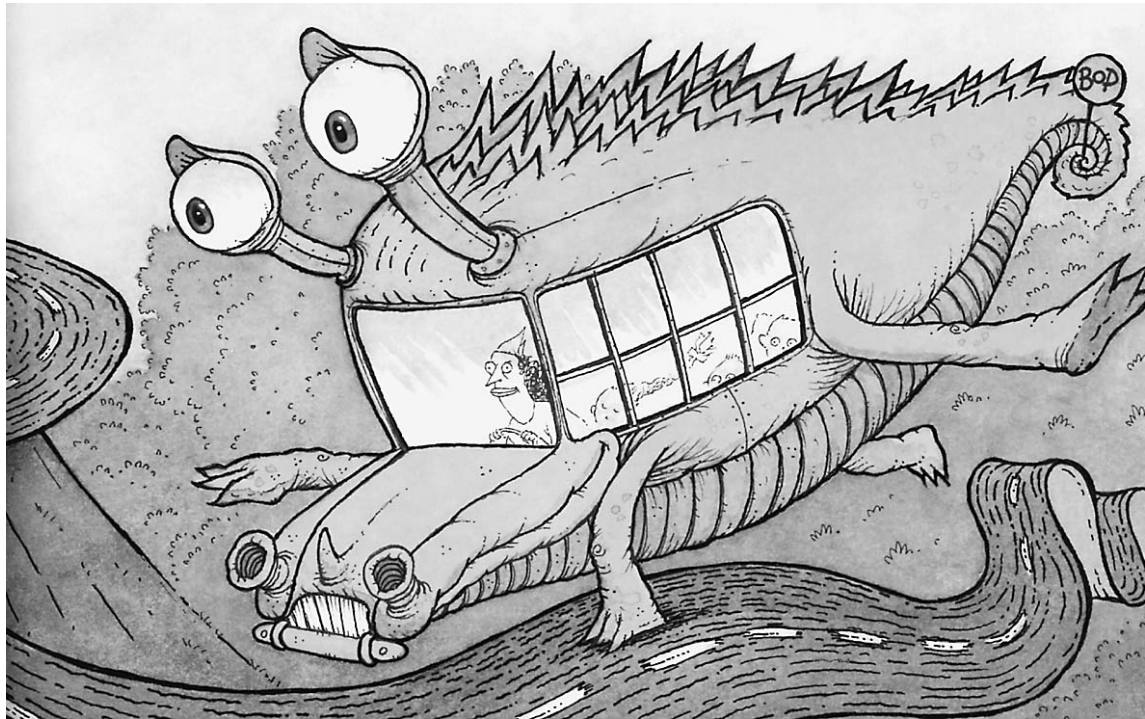


Illustration © 2003 by David Clark from *Bus-a-Saurus Bop* by Diane Z. Shore. Used by permission of the publisher, Bloomsbury Children's Books.

Making bath time fun is part of the appeal of this story. (Team 3)

Viking Children's Books/Penguin Young Readers Group. 32 pp. ISBN 0-670-03599-8 (trade). US\$15.99. CAN\$24.00. Pb., Puffin, F.

Bus-a-saurus Bop

Diane Z. Shore. Ill. David Clark.

When the bus-a-saurus comes a-moanin' and a-groanin,' and a-chuggin' and a-buggin,' the passengers are a-shoutin' and a-spoutin' and the school day can begin. Like a real schoolbus, the bus-a-saurus carries its lively cargo, in colorful rhyme, to school and back. (Team 2)

Bloomsbury USA Children's Books. 32 pp. ISBN 1-58234-850-2 (trade). US\$16.95.

Busy, Busy Mouse

Virginia Kroll. Ill. Fumi Kosaka.

Rhythmic text with simple verses tells of a day at a busy house as children eat, play, and learn. As the children go to bed, little mouse awakens and begins his busy day. Two story lines, one in verse and one solely in illustrations, appeal to young readers. (Team 3)

Viking Children's Books/Penguin Young Readers Group. 40 pp. ISBN 0-670-03527-0 (trade). US\$15.99. CAN\$24.00. Pb., Puffin, F.

Cat Count

Betsy Lewin. Ill. by the author.

This colorful, rhyming book entices the reader to count the cats that appear on each new page, beginning with one fat cat, to see how many cats accumulate. Just when the answer seems clear, the fat cat causes a surprise ending! (Team 1)

Henry Holt Books for Young Readers. 32 pp. ISBN 0-8050-6747-7 (trade). US\$14.95. CAN\$21.95.

Clarabella's Teeth

An Vrombaut. Ill. by the author.

Clarabella the Crocodile spends all day brushing her many teeth and misses out on all the fun with her friends, until they come up with a clever gift to help her with her tooth-brushing dilemma. (Team 1)

Clarion Books. 32 pp. ISBN 0-618-33379-7 (trade). US\$14.00.

Crazy Hair Day

Barney Saltzberg. Ill. by the author.

Stanley gels, sprays, and spikes his hair for Crazy Hair Day only to discover it's Picture Day instead. His best friend convinces Stanley to leave his restroom hideout for the class picture, where, happily, everyone's hair is weird. (Team 2)

Candlewick Press. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7636-1954-X (trade). US\$15.99. CAN\$22.99.



Illustration © 2003 by Stephen Gammell from *Hey, Pancakes!* by Tamson Weston. Used with permission of Harcourt, Inc. All rights reserved.

Diary of a Worm

Doreen Cronin. Ill. Harry Bliss.

Hilarious journal entries from a worm tell the good (no dentists, no baths), the bad (sidewalks and birds), and the ugly (a face that looks like a rear end) from a character with lots of insight from down under. (Team 2)

HarperCollins Children's Books. 40 pp. ISBN 0-06-000150-X (library). US\$16.89. ISBN 0-06-000151-8 (trade). US\$15.99. Pb., HarperCollins. ISBN 0-06-00152-6. US\$5.99.

Eleanor, Ellatony, Ellencake, and Me

C.M. Rubin. Ill. Christopher Fowler.

This is the perfect book for anyone that has ever had too many nicknames. Every member of Eleanor's family calls her a different name until Eleanor finally has enough! This is a humorous saga of Eleanor's efforts to find her one perfect name. (Team 1)

McGraw Hill Children's Publishing. 32 pp. ISBN 1-57768-412-5 (trade). US\$14.95. CAN\$22.95.

Excuse Me...Are You a Witch?

Emily Horn. Ill. Pawel Pawlak.

Herbert is a black cat that wants a home. In the library, Herbert finds a book that says witches like black cats, so he embarks on a search for a witch who will love him. (Team 5)

Charlesbridge. 32 pp. ISBN 1-58089-093-8 (trade). US\$15.95. CAN\$25.95.

Finklehopper Frog

Irene Livingstone. Ill. Brian Lies.

When Finklehopper tries to jog with his friends, he is teased because of his jogging style and special jogging suit. He can only hop, not jog. He finally meets a special friend that teaches him that everyone has something special that they can do, say, or be. (Team 1)

Tricycle Press. 30 pp. ISBN 1-58246-075-2 (trade). US\$14.95.

Goldie and the Three Bears

Diane Stanley. Ill. by the author.

Goldie's familiar adventure with the three bears introduces a bear cub and a little girl who wants a friend who is not too boring, not too bossy, and not too silly. Little Bear Cub—you guessed it—is just right. (Team 2)

HarperCollins Children's Books. 40 pp. ISBN 0-06-000009-0 (library). US\$16.89. ISBN0-06-000008-2 (trade). US\$15.99.

Grumblebunny

Bob Hartman. Ill. David Clark.

When Cuddlemop, Sweetsnuffle, and Pretty look for adventure, it's Grumblebunny, the resident pessimist, who saves them from becoming wolf stew. His constant complaining convinces the wolf that rabbit stew tastes horrible. Ditzzy bunnies and one grouch bound from every colorful page. (Team 2)

G.P. Putnam's Sons/Penguin Young Readers Group. 32 pp. ISBN 0-399-23780-1 (trade). US\$15.99. CAN\$24.00. Pb., Puffin, F.

Hey, Pancakes!

Tamson Weston. Ill. Stephen Gammell.

The joy of making and eating pancakes gets a sleepy young boy motivated to wake up. The story is told in rhyme with comical illustrations that help the reader imagine the busy, happy kitchen and sticky mess that results. (Team 1)

Silver Whistle/Harcourt Children's Books. 32 pp. ISBN 0-15-216502-9 (trade). US\$16.00.

How I Became a Pirate

Melinda Long. Ill. David Shannon.

A young boy spends the day on a ship learning how to be a pirate. At the end of the day he is happy to be back home for soccer practice. David Shannon's humorous illustrations add to the raucous adventure. (Team 3)

Harcourt Children's Books. 44 pp. ISBN 0-15-201848-4 (trade). US\$16.00.

Hunting Sharks

Kristin L. Nelson. Ill. with photos.

Did you know a baby shark is called a pup? Children will be fascinated by the brilliant photographs and intriguing facts about the world of sharks. If you would like to learn more about sharks, this book is for you. (Team 4)

Lerner Publishing Group. 32 pp. ISBN 0-8225-4671-X (library). US\$22.60. Pb., Lerner. ISBN 0-8225-3648-X. US\$5.95.

It's Not Fair!

Carl Sommer. Ill. Greg Budwine.

Buzzie overhears that all of the work is done by the worker bees and feels this is not fair. She soon discovers that bees do need a leader and that they work better together. (Team 4)

Advance Publishing. 48 pp. ISBN 1-57537-070-0 (library). US\$16.95. ISBN 1-57537-021-2 (trade). US\$9.95.

It's Not My Fault!

Nancy Carlson. Ill. by the author.

The main character, George, is a cute bunny who illustrates the importance of taking responsibility for one's own actions. George's antics are funny and the sequence of events is believable for children who have "accidents" of their own. (Team 4)

Carolrhoda Books/Lerner Publishing Group. 32 pp. ISBN 1-57505-598-8 (trade). US\$15.95. CAN\$25.95.

Kitty Princess and the Newspaper Dress

Emma Carlow and Trevor Dickinson. Ill. by the authors.

A fairy godmouse decides it is time to teach the rude princess a lesson. Kitty must find her own gown, jewels, and shoes for the party. Kitty sees the error of her ways and repents. The prince, however, is not so smart. (Team 3)

Candlewick Press. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7636-2077-7 (trade). US\$16.99. CAN\$23.99.

Late for School

Mike Reiss. Ill. Michael Austin.

Why is he late for school? A rhyming text tells of a harrowing adventure as a young boy encounters a gorilla, a whale, ghosts, and giant birds while trying to get to school on time. Children enjoy the simple text that invites participation. (Team 3)

Peachtree Publishers. 32 pp. ISBN 1-56145-286-6 (trade). US\$16.95.

Little Quack

Lauren Thompson. Ill. Derek Anderson.

When Mama Duck realizes that it is time for her five ducklings to leave the nest and learn to swim, they all resist, especially Little Quack. Mathematical notations across the bottom of the pages, the "Quack-U-Lator," help readers follow the ducklings' progress. (Team 1)

Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. 32 pp. ISBN 0-689-84723-8 (trade). US\$14.95. CAN\$23.95.

Moe McTooth: An Alley Cat's Tale

Eileen Spinelli. Ill. Linda Bronson.

Moe is a cosmopolitan tiger cat whose nighttime adventures take him into the heart of the city. Winter reins in the jaunty feline as he and his owner share a cozy fire and explore the mysteries of the night together. (Team 2)

Clarion Books. 32 pp. ISBN 0-618-11760-1 (trade). US\$15.00.

Night Cat!

Margaret Beames. Ill. Sue Hitchcock.

At first, Oliver the cat is eager to stay out all night in the intriguing garden, but then unforeseen adventures leave him ready for his safe haven indoors. This book will be popular with students who love stories about feline capers. (Team 5)

Orchard Books/Scholastic Inc. 32 pp. ISBN 0-439-38576-8 (trade). US\$15.95. CAN\$23.99.

Night Walk

Jill Newsome. Ill. Claudio Muñoz.

One evening, Flute the cat decides to accompany Daisy, the family dog, to the park. She is frightened by all the strange creatures there, but Daisy keeps her safe. But before the walk is over, Flute saves Daisy from harm. (Team 1)

Clarion Books. 32 pp. ISBN 0-618-32458-5 (trade). US\$15.00.

Olivia...and the Missing Toy

Ian Falconer. Ill. by the author.

Olivia's toy is taken by the dog and destroyed. In the end, Olivia repairs the toy and invites Perry, the dog, to sleep with them both. The simple illustrations convey much of the humor of the trials and tribulations of Olivia the pig. (Team 3)

Anne Schwartz Books/Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. 42 pp. ISBN 0-689-85291-6 (trade). US\$16.95. CAN\$25.50.

Panda Bear, Panda Bear, What Do You See?

Bill Martin Jr. Ill. Eric Carle.

A sequel to Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? this book uses repetitive text and vibrant, colorful collage artwork by Eric Carle that will appeal to young readers. This book features 10 endangered species of wild animals. (Team 1)

Henry Holt Books for Young Readers. 32 pp. ISBN 0-8050-1758-5 (trade). US\$15.95. CAN\$22.95.

Peep!

Kevin Luthardt. Ill. by the author.

This nearly wordless book tells of a young boy's delight when a duck is hatched from an egg he finds. Beginning readers appreciate the simple language that invites them to join in. (Team 3)

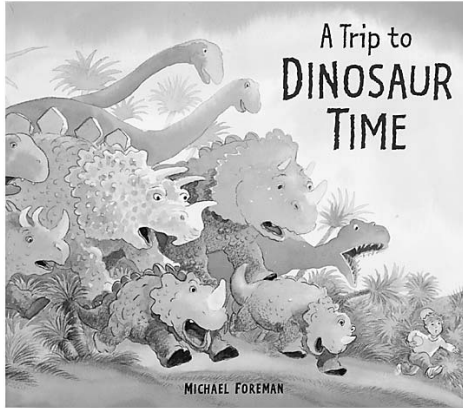
Peachtree Publishers. 32 pp. ISBN 1-56145-046-4 (trade). US\$15.95.

The Perfect Pet

Margie Palatini. Ill. Bruce Whatley.

Readers will laugh as Elizabeth imaginatively tries to convince her parents to get her the perfect pet, especially when her mother discovers the unconventional pet she has found for herself. (Team 4)

Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins Children's Books. 32 pp. ISBN 0-06-000109-7 (library). US\$16.89. ISBN 0-06-000108-9 (trade). US\$15.99. Pb., HarperCollins. ISBN 0-06-000110-0. US\$5.99.



Jacket illustration © 2002 by the author from *A Trip to Dinosaur Time* by Michael Foreman. Used by permission of the publisher, Candlewick Press.

Pigs Rock!

Melanie Davis Jones. Ill. Bob Staake.

Children will be drawn to this high-style picture book with its bold geometric shapes. They will read it again and again for its bouncy rhythm telling of a four-pig band that plays not only rock but also country and jazz. (Team 5)

Viking Children's Books/Penguin Young Readers Group. 32 pp. ISBN 0-670-03581-5 (trade). US\$15.99. CAN\$24.00. Pb., Puffin, F.

Pinky's Sweet Tooth

Michele Malkin. Ill. by the author.

Aunt Pinky owns the best bakery in town: Pinky's Sweet Tooth. Lulu helps create the cookies, pies, and cakes that the whole town loves. Candy-colored pictures of delicious treats galore leave any reader ready for dessert. (Team 2)

Dutton Children's Books/Penguin Young Readers Group. 32 pp. ISBN 0-525-47088-3 (trade). US\$15.99. CAN\$24.00. Pb., Puffin, F.

Policeman Lou and Policewoman Sue

Lisa Desimini. Ill. by the author.

Two police officers work through a quiet, small-town day until Policeman Lou chases down a robber and arrests him. Duties of police officers are featured within the story. Safety tips for children are included at the end of the book. (Team 1)

The Blue Sky Press/Scholastic Inc. 40 pp. ISBN 0-439-40888-1 (trade). US\$15.95. CAN\$23.99.

Quiet!

Paul Bright. Ill. Guy Parker-Rees.

As king of the jungle, papa lion can certainly keep the jungle animals quiet for baby lion's nap...right? This colorfully illustrated tale has a funny twist that will keep children captivated to the end. (Team 4)

Orchard Books/Scholastic Inc. 32 pp. ISBN 0-439-54512-9 (trade). US\$15.95. CAN\$23.99.

Seven Scary Monsters

Mary Beth Lundgren. Ill. Howard Fine.

An inventive boy gets rid of the monsters in his room but then has second thoughts. (Team 5)

Clarion Books. 32 pp. ISBN 0-395-88913-8 (trade). US\$15.00.

Spike in Trouble

Paulette Bogan. Ill. by the author.

Spike is off to obedience school when someone knocks over the trash cans, chews Dad's boot, and digs up Mom's flowers. After winning first prize at school, Spike discovers the real culprit of the continued mischief. (Team 4)

G.P. Putnam's Sons/Penguin Young Readers Group. 32 pp. ISBN 0-399-23765-8 (trade). US\$13.99. CAN\$21.00. Pb., Puffin, F.

Surprising Sharks

Nicola Davies. Ill. James Croft.

This nonfiction book provides loads of information about the different types of sharks. Children love the science and the pictures. (Team 3)

Candlewick Press. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7636-2185-4 (library). US\$15.99.

A Trip to Dinosaur Time

Michael Foreman. Ill. by the author.

A magical kitchen timer transports Tom back to the time of the dinosaurs. He returns safely with a dino egg in tow. Can the timer help him send the dinosaur back? Time-traveling children and dinosaurs are what fuel the love for this book. (Team 3)

Candlewick Press. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7636-2104-8 (trade). US\$16.99. CAN\$23.99.

Tyrannosaurus Rex

Don Lessem. Ill. Hall Train.

The life of a T. Rex is chronicled from the time it hatches until it matures into a ferocious hunter. Dinosaur enthusiasts will love the realistic illustrations based on museum models and the rubberized, three-dimensional cover of this book. (Team 1)

Candlewick Press. 18 pp. ISBN 0-7636-1458-0 (trade). US\$8.99. Out of print.

Where's Pup?

Dayle Ann Dodds. Ill. Pierce Pratt.

Circus acrobats with rhyming names lead the reader to pup. Repetitive text makes this an enjoyable read for beginning readers with the extra surprise of unfolding a flap at the end of the book, several times, to finally find pup. (Team 1)

Dial Books for Young Readers/Penguin Young Readers Group. 32 pp. ISBN 0-8037-2744-5 (library). US\$12.99.

Yikes!!!

Robert Florczak. Ill. by the author.

Beginning readers love the oversize, two-page paintings in this book and the small amount of text on each page. Readers thrill to the story of a young boy's journey through dangerous places with wild animals. (Team 5)

The Blue Sky Press, an imprint of Scholastic Inc. 32 pp. ISBN 0-590-05043-5 (trade). US\$15.95. CAN\$23.99.

MORE ABOUT CHILDREN'S CHOICES

Who is on the IRA-CBC Joint Committee and who are members of the review teams?

Cochairing the 2003-2004 IRA-CBC Joint Committee were Deborah Wooten, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and Phoebe Yeh, HarperCollins Children's Books, New York City, New York. Representing IRA on the committee were Elizabeth Dobler, Colleen Gilrane, Donna L. Knoell, Teri S. Lesesne, and Becky Rees; those representing CBC were Terry Borzumato, Sharon Hancock, Aimee Jackson, Kathleen Calhoun Nettleton, and Judith Zylstra. CBC administrative staff coordinated the teams' work.

The review teams described below coordinated the project at each of the following five test sites:

Team 1: Appling, Georgia, consisted of two rural elementary schools, two suburban elementary schools, and one parochial K-8 school. Team leaders: Cindy Beatty and Beth Pendergraft. Support team leaders: Terri Bragg, Kathleen Cassidy, Brett Cooper, Karen Davis, Mary Lorick, and Elizabeth Stewart.

Team 2: Missoula, Montana, consisted of eight urban elementary and middle schools. Team leader: Jan LaBonty.

Team 3: Huntsville, Texas, consisted of one suburban school with a K-6 population heavy with international students, a K-6 Montessori school in the Rio Grande Valley with near 100% Hispanic enrollment, one rural elementary with a diverse population, and two schools in a small community outside of a major city with large Hispanic enrollments. Team leader: Teri Lesesne. Support team leaders: Meg Azubell, Anita McCloskey, Cinci Mitchell, and Marjie Podzielski.

Team 4: Lima, Ohio, consisted of seven inner-city elementary schools and three inner-city middle schools. Team leader: Rebecca Rees. Support team leaders: Jane Backus, Jackie Blosser, Marybeth Corbett, Kathleen Fairburn, Barb Hochstetler, Paula Kelly, James Looser, Jill Martin, Melanie Nixon, and Michelle Vandemark.

Team 5: Knoxville, Tennessee, consisted of two rural elementary schools, one suburban elementary school, two urban elementary schools, and one suburban middle school. Team leaders: Deborah Wooten and Amy Broemmell. Support team leaders: Liz Anderson, Patti Fagg, and Colleen Gilrane.

How can I become a team leader?

Team leaders are selected by the IRA-CBC Joint Committee based upon numerous factors such as location within the United States; cooperation between team leaders, school administrators, and library media specialists; and ability to attend orientation sessions at the International Reading Association's annual convention. Information about how to become a team leader is available http://www.cbcbooks.org/childrens_choices/team_leader/index.html. All applications remain on file and periodically CBC reconfirms applicants' interest.

How can I order copies of this list?

Offprints of this annotated 2004 Children's Choices list (publication #9106) are available from the International Reading Association. Single copies of each choices list may be downloaded as a PDF file at www.reading.org. To order bulk copies by phone with a credit card, call (in the U.S. and Canada only) 800-336-7323 (302-731-1600 for international orders), or send your order to Order Department, 800 Barksdale Road, PO Box 6021, Newark, DE 19714-6021, USA. Bulk copies are also available in lots of 10 at www.reading.org. E-mail questions about orders to customerservice@reading.org.

Are other booklists available?

The International Reading Association prepares two additional annual booklists. Teachers' Choices describes approximately 30 new trade books published for children and adolescents that teachers themselves have found to be exceptional in curriculum use. The list appears each year in the November issue of *The Reading Teacher* and is also available in bulk as a separate reprint and on the Association's website at www.reading.org. Young Adults' Choices lists approximately 30 new trade books that middle, junior high, and senior high school students have selected as being particularly appealing for their age group. This list appears each November in the International Reading Association publication *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy* and is available as a separate reprint and on the Association's website at www.reading.org.

Copies of either Teachers' or Young Adults' Choices lists are available from the International Reading Association, Attn: Dept. EG, 800 Barksdale Road, PO Box 8139, Newark, DE 19714-8139, USA. Prices for each annotated list are the same as those given for the Children's Choices offprint. Prepaid orders for bulk copies should be sent Attn: Order Department, 800 Barksdale Road, Road, PO Box 6021, Newark, DE 19714-6021, USA. To order bulk copies by phone with a credit card, call (in the United States and Canada only) 800-336-7323.

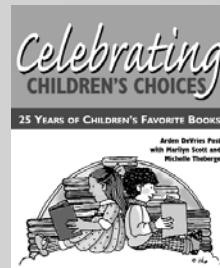
Annual lists distributed by the Children's Book Council (CBC) are Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People, a project of the National Council for the Social Studies and CBC, and Outstanding Science Trade Books for Children, a project of the National Science Teachers Association and CBC. For a single copy of the Social Studies list or Science list, send US\$2.00 and a self-addressed 6" x 9" envelope stamped with 3 oz. U.S. postage to CBC, 12 W. 37th Street, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10018-7840, USA; Attn: Social Studies List, or Attn: Science List. Multiple copy rates are available on the CBC website www.cbcbooks.org.

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MORE ABOUT CHILDREN'S CHOICES (continued)

How can I use these books in my classroom?

The International Reading Association has a publication full of ideas for making the most of these books. *Celebrating Children's Choices: 25 Years of Children's Favorite Books* (2000, ISBN 0-87207-276-2) is a collection of practical classroom applications of books from the lists. The book can be purchased through the Order Department for US\$19.16 for members, US\$23.95 for nonmembers. To order a copy by phone with a credit card (from within the United States and Canada only), call the International Reading Association at 800-336-7323, or call (from outside North America) 302-731-1600. This publication is also available through the Association's online bookstore at www.reading.org. Book rate shipping is US\$3.00 for orders under US\$25.00.



How do publishers obtain information about submitting titles for future lists?

The Children's Choices project is open to all U.S. publishers of children's books. Publishers who are not members of the CBC pay a per-title administrative fee to submit books for consideration. Submission information is available at www.cbcbooks.org/html/bibliosubs.html.

CBC welcomes publishers, large and small, to join its diverse membership. For membership information, write to CBC, 12 W. 37th Street, New York, NY 10018-7840, USA.

How can I find out more about the Children's Book Council?

For a complete listing of CBC's activities and publications, visit its website at www.cbcbooks.org.

Intermediate readers

ABC Math Riddles

Jannelle Martin. Ill. Freddie Levin.

This book makes the connection between math and reading through interesting riddles in the form of an alphabet book. Answers to all of the riddles are math vocabulary words. Children will have fun solving math riddles as they read! (Team 1)

Peel Productions. 32 pp. ISBN 0-939217-57-0 (trade). US\$13.95.

Alice in Blunderland

Phyllis Reynolds Naylor.

Nine-year-old Alice is always up to something. At school and at home, her antics are humorous, believable, and engaging. Alice involves the reader in her quest to understand life with her single dad and teenage brother. (Team 4)

Atheneum Books for Young Readers/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing. 208 pp. ISBN 0-689-84397-6 (trade). US\$15.95. CAN\$24.95.

Amber Brown Is Green With Envy

Paula Danziger.

Her mother and aunt are going to Disneyland without her, her dad is dating, and her mother's remarriage is forthcoming. Life could not be worse for Amber. Readers love the short, easy-to-read chapters. (Team 3)

G.P. Putnam's Sons/Penguin Young Readers Group. 160 pp. ISBN 0-399-23181-1 (trade). US\$14.99. CAN\$22.50.

Bow Wow Meow Meow

Douglas Florian. Ill. by the author.

Shaggy Sheepdogs, dotted Dalmatians, and speeding Whippets share this poetry book with cats, both domesticated and wild. Dachshunds and leopards alike are honored with action-filled paintings and lively verse. (Team 2)

Harcourt Children's Books. 56 pp. ISBN 0-15-216395-6 (trade). US\$17.00.

Can You See What I See? Dream Machine

Walter Wick. Ill. with photos.

Children instantly identify and enjoy the creative talent of Walter Wick. In this book, Wick takes his I Spy style to the next level by giving his readers a closer and closer look at the imaginary world he has crafted. (Team 5)

Cartwheel Books/Scholastic Inc. 40 pp. ISBN 0-439-39950-5 (trade). US\$13.95.

Everything Cat: What Kids Really Want to Know About Cats

Marty Crisp. Ill. with photos.

Why do cats purr? Why do cats stare? Do they really have nine lives? These and 27 other questions are asked and answered with photos and facts galore. It's the ideal books for cat lovers and other curious readers. (Team 2)

NorthWord Press. 64 pp. ISBN 1-55971-864-1 (trade). US\$10.95. Pb., NorthWord Press. ISBN 1-55971-865-X. US\$6.95.

Fire Storm

Jean Craighead George. Ill. Wendell Minor.

During the summer of 2000, Axel and his dog Grits go on a kayaking trip in Middle Fork, Idaho, with an aunt and uncle. When dry lightning strikes start fires all around them, their adventure begins. (Team 4)

Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins Children's Books. 32 pp. ISBN 0-06-000264-6 (library) US\$16.89. ISBN 0-06-000263-8 (trade). US\$15.99. Pb., HarperCollins. ISBN 0-06-000265-4. US\$5.99.

Franny K. Stein, Mad Scientist: Lunch Walks Among Us

Jim Benton. Ill. by the author.

Franny loves spooky, creepy things—bats, snakes, and tarantulas. Unfortunately, her classmates are scared of her. But when Franny rescues Miss Shelly from the Pumpkin-Crab Monster using a Lunch Meat Creature, they all agree that differences can save the day. (Team 2)

Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. 112 pp. ISBN 0-689-86291-1 (trade). US\$14.95. CAN\$23.95. Pb., Aladdin. ISBN 0-689-86295-4. US\$3.99.

Grady's in the Silo

Una Belle Townsend. Ill. Bob Artley.

When a Hereford cow trying to escape the vet jumps into a grain silo, suggestions for her rescue flood the tiny town of Yukon, Oklahoma. A little grease and rural ingenuity save Grady, who contentedly becomes a folk legend. (Team 2)

Pelican Publishing Company. 32 pp. ISBN 1-58980-098-2 (trade). US\$15.95.

Hoop Queens

Charles R. Smith Jr. Ill. with photos.

Smith combines his loves of reading, writing, photography, and sports in this collection of poems about outstanding women basketball players. Children enjoy identifying which of his nicknames and poems would define them. (Team 5)

Candlewick Press. 40 pp. ISBN 0-7636-1422-X (trade). US\$14.99. CAN\$21.99.

Horace Splattly, the Cupcaked Crusader: The Terror of the Pink Dodo Balloons

Lawrence David. Ill. Barry Gott.

Easy to read chapters tell of Horace's attempts to find out who is making the pink dodo balloons that are causing people to go bald. Can he solve the mystery and save the day? Readers enjoy a story in which the small and powerless win. (Team 3)

Dutton Children's Books/Penguin Young Readers Group. 160 pp. ISBN 0-525-46867-6 (trade). US\$14.99. CAN\$22.50. Pb., Puffin. ISBN 0-14-250001-1. US\$4.99.

How Ben Franklin Stole the Lightning

Rosalyn Schanzer. Ill. by the author.

Ben Franklin's endless curiosity and energy led him to invent many contraptions, including the famous lightning rod. Schanzer's spirited account brings this



Illustration © 2003 by Bob Artley from *Grady's in the Silo* by Una Belle Townsend. Used by permission of the publisher, Pelican Publishing.

famous historical figure to life for children. Extensive author's note included. (Team 5)

HarperCollins Children's Books. 40 pp. ISBN 0-688-16994-5 (library). US\$17.89. ISBN 0-688-16993-7 (trade). US\$16.99. CAN\$25.99.

Jackalope

Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel. Ill. by the authors.

Jack Rabbit is unhappy with his looks and tries to make himself over into a donkey, horned toad, and other critters. Armadillo narrates this fanciful tale of how the legend of the jackalope came to be. Readers love the references to lots of nursery rhymes and fairy tales. (Team 3)

Harcourt Children's Books. 56 pp. ISBN 0-15-216736-6 (trade). US\$17.00.

The Kingfisher Book of Family Poems

Selected by Brenda Hollyer. Ill. Holly Swain.

This collection celebrates the various members of families from all over the world. Short poems about situations children know well provide the appeal of this collection that includes works from a wide array of authors. (Team 3)

Kingfisher. 224 pp. ISBN 0-7534-5557-9 (trade). US\$18.95.

Let's Rock! Rock Painting for Kids

Linda Kranz. Ill. with photos.

This book contains color photographs and hundreds of patterns that show children how to create their own painted rocks. The author gives special tips about preparing and finishing rocks. All kids can be real artists with this book! (Team 1)

NorthWord Press. 64 pp. Pb., ISBN 1-55971-870-6. US\$11.95.



Illustration © 2003 by Charles Santore from **Paul Revere's Ride: The Landlord's Tale** by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Used by permission of the publisher, HarperCollins Children's Books.

Little Pierre: A Cajun Story From Louisiana

Robert D. San Souci. Ill. David Catrow.

A Tom Thumb-sized hero leads his dim-witted brothers on a monster-filled quest to save a maiden. Accessible Cajun diction and lively watercolor caricatures create droll characters in this merry tale of wits conquering might. (Team 5)

Silver Whistle/Harcourt Children's Books. 32 pp. ISBN 0-15-202482-4 (trade). US\$16.00.

Metal Mutz!

Christine Tagg. Ill. David Ellwand.

A robot from outer space has landed in a junkyard. Looking for a friend, he tries to build a Metal Mutt. None is quite right until the mutts work together to build the perfect friend, with a surprise "sound" ending. (Team 4)

Candlewick Press. 24 pp. ISBN 0-7636-2083-1 (trade). US\$17.99. CAN\$25.99.

Millions to Measure

David M. Schwartz. Ill. Steven Kellogg.

Marvelosissimo is back—this time to explain measurement—from stones, cups, and royal feet to ounces, yards, and finally, the metric system. A fold-out page a meter long and cartoon illustrations galivant through time, teaching along the way. (Team 2)

HarperCollins Children's Books. 40 pp. ISBN 0-06-623784-X (library). US\$17.89. ISBN 0-688-12916-1 (trade). US\$16.99. CAN\$25.99.

Moon's Cloud Blanket

Rose Anne St. Romain. Ill. Joan C. Waites.

A flood in a southern Louisiana bayou causes a woman and her children to take refuge in a cypress tree. Moon weaves a cloud blanket to keep them warm. Childhood fears and parental protection will resonate with young readers. (Team 4)

Pelican Publishing Company. 32 pp. ISBN 1-56554-922-8 (trade). US\$15.95.

My Brother Dan's Delicious

Steven Layne.

When he arrives home to an empty house, Joey is quick to announce to any lurking monster that his brother Dan would be a better target as he is delicious. Readers enjoy the surprise ending. (Team 3)

Pelican Publishing Company. 32 pp. ISBN 1-58980-071-0 (trade). US\$15.95.

My Momma Likes to Say

Denise Brennan-Nelson. Ill. Jane Donovan.

Clever illustrations take common English idioms literally in this humorous book. Informative notes tell the origins of each phrase.

Sleeping Bear Press. 28 pp. ISBN 1-58536-106-2 (trade). US\$15.95.

Mystic Horse

Paul Goble. Ill. by the author.

This tale, based on a Pawnee legend, tells of a neglected horse that is cared for by a poor boy and his grandmother. Children recognize that the honor and rewards the boy receives are a result of his compassion. (Team 5)

HarperCollins Children's Books. 40 pp. ISBN 0-06-029813-8 (trade). US\$16.99. CAN\$25.99. Pb., HarperTrophy. ISBN 0-06-443835-X. US\$5.99.

The Nine Lives of Aristotle

Dick King-Smith. Ill. Bob Graham.

Aristotle, an adventurous kitten, is adopted by a kind-hearted witch. The mischievous feline quickly moves from one near-death experience to the next, each time being rescued by his owner. Children can't wait to see what trouble the kitten will get into next. (Team 5)

Candlewick Press. 80 pp. ISBN 0-7636-2260-5 (trade). US\$14.99. CAN\$21.99.

Paul Revere's Ride: The Landlord's Tale

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Ill. Charles Santore

The magnificent illustrations of Longfellow's poem clarify for the reader the events that took place as Revere daringly devised and executed his plan to warn the colonists of the arrival of the British soldiers. An interesting Artist's Note is included. (Team 1)

HarperCollins Children's Books. 40 pp. ISBN 0-688-16552-4 (trade). US\$16.99. CAN\$25.99.

The Picture of Morty & Ray

Daniel Pinkwater. Ill. Jack E. Davis.

Imitating a movie (remember Dorian Gray?), youngsters Morty and Ray paint a self-portrait to see if it will turn ugly as they say and do rude things. Detailed descriptions and illustrations of their gross behaviors will delight many young readers. (Team 5)

HarperCollins Children's Books. 32 pp. ISBN 0-06-623786-6 (library). US\$16.89. ISBN 0-06-623785-8 (trade). US\$15.99. Pb., HarperTrophy. ISBN 0-06-443849-X. US\$5.99.

Pizza Counting

Christina Dobson. Ill. Matthew Holmes.

Many varieties of toppings are counted and used to create pizzas in this humorous book. After pizzas with up to 100 items on top are built, some pizzas are divided into slices of different sizes to introduce fractions. (Team 5)

Charlesbridge. 32 pp. ISBN 0-88106-338-X (trade). US\$16.95. CAN\$26.95.

Sacagawea

Lise Erdich. Ill. Julie Buffalohead.

The Native American author and illustrator beautifully re-create the life of Sacagawea, the Shoshone girl who accompanied Lewis and Clark. With her baby and her resilience, this heroine guides her way into the hearts and history of America. (Team 2)

Carolrhoda Books/Lerner Publishing Group. 40 pp. ISBN 0-87614-646-9 (trade). US\$16.95. CAN\$27.95.

Scary Sharks

Elaine Landau. Ill. with photos.

A true story about an 8-year-old attacked by a shark opens this book filled with information about sharks that children find scary but interesting. Part of the Fearsome, Scary and Creepy Animals series. (Team 5)

Enslow Publishers. 48 pp. ISBN 0-7660-2058-4 (library). US\$18.95.

The Spiderwick Chronicles: Book 1, The Field Guide

Tony DiTerlizzi and Holly Black.

Upon moving into decrepit Spiderwick Estate, the Grace children stumble upon a field guide to the fantastic. It's handy for quick tips on dealing with Boggarts and the creatures lurking in the promised sequels. (Team 2)

Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. 128 pp. ISBN 0-689-85936-8 (trade). US\$9.95. CAN\$14.95.

Stuart Goes to School

Sara Pennypacker. Ill. Martin Matje.

Stuart, the classic worrywart, imagines the worst-case scenario for all his fears as he starts a new school. Readers will cheer when, armed with his magic cape, he overcomes his biggest fear of all—not having any friends. (Team 5)

Orchard Books/Scholastic Inc. 64 pp. ISBN 0-439-30182-3 (trade). US\$15.95. CAN\$24.99.

Thunder Rose

Jerdine Nolen. Ill. Kadir Nelson.

This tall tale describes the Old West adventures of the female heroine, Thunder Rose. Her gift of song that could tame tornadoes, and her ability to twist and bend scrap iron, are just the beginning of her many feats. (Team 1)

Silver Whistle/Harcourt Children's Books. 32 pp. ISBN 0-15-216472-3 (trade). US\$16.00.



*Illustration © 2003 by Kadir Nelson from **Thunder Rose** by Jerdine Nolen. Used by permission of the publisher, Silver Whistle, a division of Harcourt. All rights reserved.*

Twisters and Other Terrible Storms: A Nonfiction Companion to Twister on Tuesday

Will Osborne and Mary Pope Osborne. Ill. with photos.

This addition to the popular Magic Tree House Research Guide series is full of facts about wild weather, from hurricanes to blizzards. (Team 5)

Random House Books for Young Readers. 128 pp. Pb., ISBN 0-375-81358-6 (trade). US\$4.99. CAN\$6.99.

Vote!

Eileen Christelow. Ill. by the author.

Two dogs and cartoon illustrations explain how voting takes place in a democracy. Through a mayoral race, polls, parties, and campaigns are described. An index, a timeline of voting rights, and lists of additional resources complete this relevant nonfiction book. (Team 2)

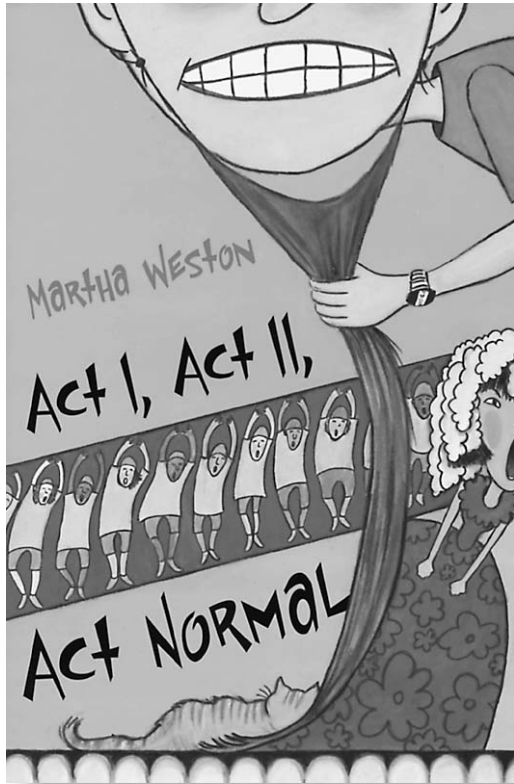
Clarion Books. 48 pp. ISBN 0-618-24754-8 (trade). US\$16.00. Pb., Clarion. ISBN 0-618-48606-X. US\$5.95.

The Wolves in the Walls

Neil Gaiman. Ill. Dave McKean.

Everyone says that when the wolves come out of the walls, it's all over! Collage and dark watercolors chronicle the ousting of the wolves and the return of Lucy (who warned them) and her family, just in time for the next visitors: elephants. (Team 2)

HarperCollins Children's Books. 56 pp. ISBN 0-06-053087-1 (library). US\$17.89. ISBN 0-380-97827-X (trade). US\$16.99. Pb., HarperTrophy. ISBN 0-380-81095-6. US\$6.99.



Cover illustration © 2003 by the author from *Act I, Act II, Act Normal* by Martha Weston. Used by permission of the publisher, Roaring Brook Press.

Advanced readers

Act I, Act II, Act Normal

Martha Weston.

A middle school boy deals with being bullied over having the lead as Rumpelstiltskin in the school play, the death of his family pet, his loyalty to his best friend, and the range of emotions of middle school girls. (Team 1)

Roaring Brook Press. 160 pp. ISBN 0-7613-1779-1 (trade). US\$15.95.

Agnes Parker...Girl in Progress

Kathleen O'Dell.

Being 11 definitely makes her a girl in progress. Agnes may even be regressing when she needs glasses. But they allow her to see the cute new boy in class, so it can't be all bad, can it? Girls identify with Agnes's trials and triumphs in sixth grade. (Team 3)

Dial Books for Young Readers/Penguin Young Readers Group. 160 pp. ISBN 0-8037-2648-1 (trade). US\$16.99. CAN\$25.50. Pb., Speak. ISBN 0-14-240228-1. US\$5.99.

The Cheat

Amy Goldman Koss.

Six middle school students tell of their knowledge or involvement in a midterm exam cheating incident in short, alternating chapters. This is a quick read, full of typical middle school issues such as fitting in, self-identity, and parental problems. (Team 1)

Dial Books for Young Readers/Penguin Young Readers Group. 176 pp. ISBN 0-8037-2794-1 (trade). US\$16.99. CAN\$25.50. Pb., Speak. ISBN 0-14-240128-5. US\$5.99.

The City of Ember

Jeanne DuPrau.

An underground city surviving on stored supplies and a failing generator stretch the imagination as Lina and Doon lead a suspenseful and exciting search for a new world that might not exist but offers the only hope for their community. (Team 4)

Random House Books for Young Readers. 288 pp. ISBN 0-375-82273-9 (trade). US\$15.95. CAN\$23.95. Pb., Random House Books for Young Readers. ISBN 0-375-82274-7. US\$4.99.

Cowboy Boy

James Proimos. Ill. by the author.

Children will relate to Ricky as he exaggerates and uses humor to describe his parents, best friend, teachers, and life in middle school. The childlike illustrations will quickly win the affection of readers. (Team 5)

Scholastic Inc. 96 pp. ISBN 0-439-41681-7 (trade). US\$14.95. CAN\$22.99.

Dare to Be Scared: Thirteen Stories to Chill and Thrill

Robert D. San Souci. Ill. David Ouimet.

Between the black end papers are 13 dark tales for readers who love to be scared. Corpses from graves, Caribbean frights, and evil spirits wait on every page to frighten kids and to punish those who deserve it most. (Team 2)

Cricket Books. 159 pp. ISBN 0-8126-2688-5 (trade). US\$15.95.

The Emerald Throne (Eaglesmount series)

Cherith Baldry.

This is the second of the Eaglesmount Trilogy. Vair and his three animal companions venture to Owl Castle to retrieve the Horn of Eaglesmount from evil Lord Owl in their quest to find the true heir of Riverbourne. (Team 4)

Mondo Publishing. 144 pp. ISBN 1-59034-584-3 (trade). US\$15.95.

Firewing

Kenneth Oppel.

In this installment, the third in a series of books about bats, young Griffin is lured into the underworld from which he must escape quickly before he dies. Will his father be able to save Griffin and defeat their deadly foe? (Team 1)

Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. 272 pp. ISBN 0-689-84993-1 (trade). US\$16.95. Pb., Aladdin. ISBN 0-689-86988-6. US\$5.99.

Frosty: The Adventures of a Morgan Horse

Ellen F. Feld.

This is the story of a girl and her two horses. As Heather trains her new horse Frosty, she learns that her beloved horse Blackjack is very sick. Readers will learn a great deal about horse care and training from the detailed descriptions. (Team 1)

Willow Bend Publishing. 199 pp. Pd., ISBN 0-9709002-2-8. US\$9.95.

Hello, Goodbye, I Love You

Pamela Bauer Mueller.

Heartstrings will be pulled as you read about the life of Aloha the guide dog and his trainer Diego. This true story depicts the lessons learned and the loving sacrifices made by both Diego and Aloha. (Team 4)

Piñata Publishing. 160 pp. Pb., ISBN 0-9685097-3-8. US\$7.99.

Little Vampire Goes to School

Joann Sfar. Ill. by the author.

The childlike illustrations immediately grab the reader's attention in this humorous and entertaining story about a vampire who wants to go to school but ends up with something he didn't expect. (Team 5)

Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. 40 pp. ISBN 0-689-85717-9 (trade). US\$12.95. CAN\$20.95.

Locomotion

Jacqueline Woodson.

At age 7, Lonnie's life changed forever. Now he is 11 and, thanks to Ms. Marcus, he has learned to put his feelings and life story on paper. Readers are captivated by Lonnie's poems, which reveal his determination to make life better. (Team 4)

G.P. Putnam's Sons/Penguin Young Readers Group. 100 pp. ISBN 0-399-23115-3 (trade). US\$15.99. CAN\$24.00.

Millicent Min, Girl Genius

Lisa Yee.

Millicent Min is 11 and a genius. Her high school classmates hate her for doing so well on tests; her mother has volunteered her services as a tutor for the summer. Could life get any worse? The diary entry format of the book forms an intimate bond with readers. (Team 3)

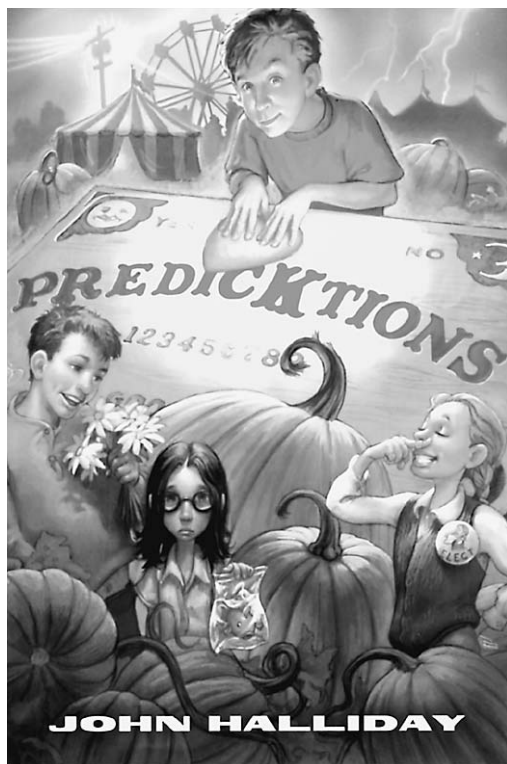
Arthur A. Levine Books/Scholastic Press. 248 pp. ISBN 0-439-42519-0 (trade). US\$16.95. CAN\$24.99.

Overnight

Adele Griffin.

Gray floats in and out of being an accepted member of the "Lucky Seven." It was bad enough dealing with her mother's cancer. When Gray disappears from an overnight birthday party, will the Lucky Seven hold true to their friendship? (Team 4)

G.P. Putnam's Sons/Penguin Young Readers Group. 160 pp. ISBN 0-399-23782-8 (trade). US\$15.99. CAN\$24.00. Pb., Speak. ISBN 0-14-240143-9. US\$5.99.



Cover illustration © 2003 by James Bernardin from *PredicKtions* by John Halliday. Jacket design by Polly Kanevsky. Used by permission of the publisher, Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.

PredicKtions

John Halliday.

The sleepy town of Westlake is in search of something to attract visitors. Their fortune changes with the birth of Josh Jolly in the fortune-telling tent while the carnival is in town. Can Josh's actions bring visitors to Westlake? (Team 4)

Margaret K. McElderry Books/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing. 192 pp. ISBN 0-689-84564-2 (trade). US\$16.95. CAN\$26.50.

Sammy Keyes and the Art of Deception

Wendelin Van Draanen.

Sammy Keyes's latest adventure begins with an assigned art report. During her research, this seventh-grade sleuth gets a kiss, visits a gallery, meets the artists, foils a heist, exposes a fraud, and discovers her own definition of art. (Team 4)

Knopf Books for Young Readers/Randon House Children's Books. 288 pp. ISBN 0-375-81176-1 (trade). US\$15.95. CAN\$23.95.

TIPS FOR PARENTS, PRIMARY CAREGIVERS, AND EDUCATORS

Initial book activities

One of the easiest ways to begin telling the story of a book is through the use of illustrations. Most books for young children are illustrated in great detail, and noting important details related to the characters, plot, and setting will provide a wholesome first literacy activity.

- Set aside a regular time and place for books so that reading books becomes as natural as eating and sleeping.
- Browse through books to help the child become familiar with books and how they are handled.
- Read the story while the child points to the pictures. Adult and child can repeat interesting sounds, repetitive word patterns, and distinctive word features to the delight of both.
- Have the child tell the story using the illustrations, while the adult reinforces the telling. The two can predict outcomes, discuss how the characters feel, and relate the events to their own experiences.
- Read the book to the child and enjoy it together. Retell the story together and talk about the characters, setting, plot, and life experiences.
- Compare the similarities and differences of children's books available as video productions.
- Have children make responses to the books read through art reproductions such as drawings, or by using clay, papier-mâché, dioramas, or fingerpaints.
- Make regular trips to the library and attend storytelling sessions. Visit bookstores together to begin a personal library for a child.

Beginning reading-level activities

Children at this level should be encouraged to browse through books and pretend to read the story, an initial step toward becoming an independent reader. Children may tell the story to themselves or attempt to read frequently highlighted words.

- Read the story as the child points to the pictures on each page.
- Let the child pretend to read the story as the adult points to the pictures.
- Read alternate pages, ask each other questions, and discuss the story. The adult models what he or she thinks of when reading the page so the child gets a variety of perspectives on the ways words have different meanings.
- Use computer programs to expand a child's interest in specific topics and to provide valuable information for later curriculum study.
- Compare and contrast video adaptations of children's books for this and more advanced literacy levels.

Primary-grade book activities

- Continue to spend time reading with the child; set aside a specific time and place.
- Become aware of the interests of your children and books that extend life experiences so they know what happens in the world around them.
- Encourage children to share books read in school with parents and caregivers at home. Parents and caregivers should encourage children to share books they've read at home with their teachers and schoolmates.
- Continue to extend the information and knowledge bases through computer programs and other technology that capitalize on topics initiated through reading.

Independent reader activities

- Challenge readers to compare and contrast books.
- Encourage children to develop an interest in a variety of genres such as biography, historical fiction, and poetry.
- Encourage children to read books related to beginning career and vocational choices.
- Seek a balance between school book activities; home and school literature activities; and familiarity with newspapers, magazines, and other text media that address contemporary social, cultural, and civic issues.

Develop the desire to be a lifelong reader

- Have students bring what is read to bear on what is viewed on film, television, and computer and other media technologies.
- View technology in the reflection of the literature.
- Keep in mind that the most memorable conversations are often filled with anecdotes from literature.
- Relate what has been read to the solution of problems. By internalizing what has been read, we use knowledge and wisdom to solve personal problems, to make significant decisions related to career choices, to find solutions to community and social problems, and to develop healthy attitudes toward a positive world environment.

IRA/CBC Liaison Committee
Deborah Wooten, 2003-2004 Cochair
Phoebe Yeh, 2003-2004 Cochair

The Sisters Club

Megan McDonald.

Stevie, Alex, and Joey are the sole members of the Sisters Club. Together they survive school, a crazy family life, and being sisters. The chapters alternate narrators, giving readers a chance to see from everyone's point of view. (Team 3)

Pleasant Company. 196 pp. ISBN 1-58485-782-X (trade). US\$12.95.

Skeleton Key

Anthony Horowitz.

Alex Rider is on another adventure in the world of spies. He must save the free world from a devastating nuclear weapon. Join Alex as he solves the mystery of Skeleton Key and fights the forces of evil. (Team 4)

Philomel Books/Penguin Young Readers Group. 264 pp. ISBN 0-399-23777-1 (trade). US\$17.99. CAN\$27.00. Pb., Puffin. ISBN 0-14-240102-1. US\$5.99.

Spy Cat

Peg Kehret and Pete the Cat.

Pete the cat can understand everything he hears, but no one can understand him when he tries to tell them about dangerous burglars in the neighborhood.

When his owner Benjie is kidnapped, Pete tries frantically to lead the family to their lost son. (Team 3)

Dutton Children's Books/Penguin Young Readers Group. 192 pp. ISBN 0-525-47046-8 (trade). US\$15.99. Pb., Puffin. ISBN 0-14-240151-X. US\$5.99.

The Steps

Rachel Cohn.

Twelve-year-old Annabel experiences feelings and emotions that children can relate to as she finds her place within two new stepfamilies. She builds new relationships when her separated parents marry new people and create new families. (Team 4)

Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. 144 pp. ISBN 0-689-84549-9 (trade). US\$15.95. CAN\$24.95. Pb., Aladdin. ISBN 0-689-87414-6. US\$4.99.

Utterly Me, Clarice Bean

Lauren Child.

Clarice and her friends get help from their favorite book character and child detective, Ruby Redfort, to solve a class mystery and enter a literature contest. Hilarious entries from Clarice's journals make her, and her observations, irresistible. (Team 2)

Candlewick Press. 192 pp. ISBN 0-7636-2186-2 (trade). US\$15.99.

Where I'd Like to Be

Frances O'Roark Dowell.

Maddie just wants to find a permanent home and live with a family. She meets a new girl named Murphy,



Cover photograph © 2003 by Bruce Katz from *Where I'd Like To Be* by Frances O'Roark Dowell. Jacket design by Russell Gordon. Used by permission of the publisher, Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.

who challenges Maddie's ideas of what a home and family are. (Team 4)

Atheneum Books for Young Readers/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing. 240 pp. ISBN 0-689-84420-4 (trade). US\$15.95. Pb., Aladdin. ISBN 0-689-87067-1. US\$4.99.

The Wild World of the Future

Claire Pye. Ill. with photos.

The complex relationships among climate, habitat, and the animal kingdom are traced from 200 million years ago to the present. Evolution is explained through detailed text, full-color drawings, and photographs. Readers are challenged to predict the next evolutionary step. (Team 2)

Firefly Books. 96 pp. ISBN 1-55297-727-7 (library). US\$24.95. Pb., Firefly. ISBN 1-55297-725-0. US\$14.95.