

# Boys and Reading Booklist

NLA/NEMA Conference

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Sally Snyder  
Nebraska Library Commission



## A Few Picture Books

Casey, Tina *THE UNDERGROUND GATORS*

Illus. by Lynn Munsinger unpub. Dutton 2009 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-525-47213-1

Frazer, Marla *A COUPLE OF BOYS HAVE THE BEST WEEK EVER*

Unpub. Harcourt 2008 \$16.00 ISBN 978-0-15-206020-6

Fucile, Tony *LET'S DO NOTHING!*

Unpub. Candlewick Press 2009 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-7636-3440-7

Hall, Katy & Lisa Eisberg *SIMMS TABACK'S GREAT BIG BOOK OF SPACEY SNAKEY*

*BUGGY RIDDLES* illus. by Simms Taback unpub. Viking 2008 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-670-01121-6  
(orig. pub as 3 separate books in 1986-1992)

Hubbell, Patricia *AIRPLANES: Soaring! Diving! Turning!*

Illus. by Megan Halsey & Sean Addy unpub. Marshall Cavendish 2008 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-7614-5388-8

Hubbell, Patricia *BOATS: Speeding! Sailing! Cruising!*

Illus. by Megan Halsey & Sean Addy unpub. Marshall Cavendish 2009 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-7614-5524-0

Kajikawa, Kimiko *TSUNAMI!*

Illus. by Ed Young unpub. Philomel Books 2009 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-399-25006-4

Knapman, Timothy *MUNGO AND THE SPIDERS FROM SPACE*

Illus. by Adam Stower unpub. Dial 2008 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-8037-3277-3

Lester, Helen ***TACKY GOES TO CAMP***

Illus. by Lynn Munsinger unp. Houghton Mifflin 2009 \$16.00 ISBN 978-0-618-98812-9

Lunc, Deb ***MONSTERS ON MACHINES***

Illus. by Robert Neubecker unp. Harcourt 2008 \$16.00 ISBN 978-0-15-205365-9

Nez, John Abbott ***CROMWELL DIXON'S SKY-CYCLE***

Unp. Putnam 2009 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-399-25041-5

Thomson, Sarah L. ***PIRATES, HO!***

Illus. by Stephen Gilpin unp. Marshall Cavendish 2008 \$14.99 ISBN 978-0-7614-5435-9

## **Nonfiction Picture Books**

Halls, Kelly Milner ***DINOSAUR PARADE***

Illus. by Rick C. Spears unp. Lark Books 2008 \$12.95 ISBN 978-1-60059-267-6

A look at different dinosaurs, giving a perspective on their sizes using rhyming text. On the bottom of each page is a silhouette and some basic facts about each animal in the illustration.

Kudlinski, Kathleen V. ***BOY, WERE WE WRONG ABOUT THE SOLAR SYSTEM***

Illus. by John Rocco unp. Dutton 2008 \$15.99 ISBN 978-0-525-46979-7

The author follows man's thoughts about our solar system and the universe down through history, explaining early beliefs and later evidence to counter that belief. Concludes with the idea that we are still learning and something we think is true today may also be wrong.

Laroche, Giles ***WHAT'S INSIDE?***

Unp. Houghton Mifflin 2009 \$17.00 ISBN 978-0-618-86247-4

More of a guessing game than a cross-sectional display, this does give a glimpse inside buildings throughout history. Each of the 14 puzzles starts with the outside of the building and asks what could be inside. Most are a look in one room of a building, but a few cross-sections are included. Starts with King Tut's tomb and visits different countries and cultures up to modern day.

## **Beginning Readers**

Manolis, Kay ***MONSTER TRUCKS***

24p. Scholastic 2008 \$20.00 (PLB) ISBN 978-0-531-20464-1

Manolis, Kay ***POLICE CARS***

24p. Scholastic 2008 \$20.00 (PLB) ISBN 978-0-531-20465-8

Two books from the Mighty Machines series, these give very basic facts about the respective vehicles. Excellent clear photos will attract readers. These come with Public Library Binding (PLB) to extend the book life.

## **Fiction for Grades 2-5 (or so)**

Arnosky, Jim ***THE PIRATES OF CROCODILE SWAMP***

230p. Putnam 2009 \$15.99 ISBN 978-0-399-25068-2

A more serious theme with this title. Brothers Sandy (11) and Jack (9) are taken from their home in Pennsylvania and driven by their father to Florida, Key Largo. They manage to escape from him and end up hiding in Crocodile Swamp, a rather dangerous preserve. Here they learn a bit about the North American crocodiles first hand, encounter a hammerhead shark, and find a friend in an old fisherman.

Berlin, Eric ***THE PUZZLING WORLD OF WINSTON BREEN***

215p. Dutton or Puffin 2007, 2009 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-399-24693-7; \$7.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-14-241388-3

Berlin, Eric ***THE POTATO CHIP PUZZLES*** (The Puzzling World of Winston Breen, Bk 2)

215p. Putnam 2009 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-399-25198-6

Intriguing plots in both books. Winston, who loves puzzles, and his friends spend a day in each book solving puzzles to reveal a prize. In the first book they help the librarian try to find a valuable ring hidden by her father. In the second, they are one team among ten trying to win \$50,000 for their school. Readable and compelling. Puzzles for readers to solve are scattered throughout both books (with answers in the back).

Boniface, William ***THE GREAT POWERS OUTAGE***

342p. HarperCollins 2008 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-06-077470-7

The Extraordinary Adventures of Ordinary Boy, Book 3) A new threat to Superopolis, people's powers are fading and disappearing, and no one knows why. Also, AI (the Amazing Indestructo) has a new potato chip that may put the long-time town favorite -- Dr. Teleomere's chips -- out of production.

Buckingham, Royce ***GOBLINS!: An UnderEarth Adventure***

232p. Putnam 2008 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-399-25002-6

PJ, 17 and the somewhat delinquent son of the sheriff of the small town, and Sam Hill (12), borrow the police car and soon find themselves underground. Sam has been captured by goblins and PJ has been shanghaied by two guardians, who responsibility it is to keep the goblins from finding the surface. Great adventure for boys, goblin names such as Eww-Yuk and Bargle are only the beginning. This could be the start of a series.

Clements, Andrew ***LOST AND FOUND***

176p. Atheneum 2008 \$16.99 ISBN 978-1-41690985-9

Jay and Ray, 12-yr-old twins, find their new school has lost Ray's record, so are only expecting Jay. They decide to keep the school and their parents in the dark. They take turns going to school and find out what it is like to be seen as an individual, instead of a twin. Of course, they know they will be found out.

Davis, Tony ***ROLAND WRIGHT, FUTURE KNIGHT***

Illus. by Gregory Rogers 126p. Delacorte Press 2009 \$12.99 ISBN 978-0-385-73800-2

(read an Advanced Readers Copy, price, etc. can change, to be on sale Sept. 8, 2009)

Roland and his older brother, Shelby, each want the chance for one of them to become a knight. Their wise, blacksmith father, must make the choice, so he devises a way for them to show their true skills and beliefs. This is the first book of a new series.

Delaney, Joseph ***THE SPOOK'S TALE AND OTHER HORRORS***

166p. HarperCollins 2009 \$10.99 ISBN 978-0-06-173028-3

Three short stories of characters from The Last Apprentice series. The longest tale for the Spook, and how he became one, and one tale each for Alice and Grimalkin. Maintains the spooky atmosphere of the series.

Donovan, Gail ***IN MEMORY OF GORFMAN T. FROG***

Illus. by Janet Pedersen 180 p. Dutton 2009 \$15.99 ISBN 978-0-525-42085-9

Joshua (Joshua Tree Hewitt) (5th grade) finds a frog with three back legs in their garden pool. He is fascinated and does some research to find out what could have caused this. Oh, yes, he is also a motor mouth, often getting in trouble with his parents and teacher. There is humor, and some learning; about frogs, the food chain, the environment and behavior during the course of the book. If you are looking for "green" books, this is one.

Gutman, Dan ***RAY & ME*** (A Baseball Card Adventure)

162p. HarperCollins 2009 \$15.99 ISBN 978-0-06-123481-1

When Stosh is hit in the head with a baseball and survives, he learns how lucky he is compared to Ray Chapman, the only major league player to die after being hit by the ball. Stosh goes back in time to try to save Ray.

Horowitz, Anthony ***SWITCH***

162p. Philomel 2009 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-399-25062-0

(Previously published in England in 1986) An unusual set of circumstances causes rich, spoiled Tad Spencer (13) to switch bodies with Bob Snarley, son of abusive, impoverished carnival workers. Tad must try to switch back, and survive in a completely different world. Will appeal to reluctant readers.

Jennings, Patrick ***WE CAN'T ALL BE RATTLESNAKES***

121p. HarperCollins 2009 \$15.99 ISBN 978-0-06-082114-2

Crusher, as named by her captor, is a free roaming gopher snake until she is caught and placed in a terrarium by Gunnar. Sometimes humorous and sometimes sad, this book looks at captivity of wild creatures, and of the neglect some receive from their easily-distracted young captors. Anthropomorphic heavy, the reptiles can communicate telepathically, but the creative and unusual activities do not detract from the point. The most fun is the hunger strike Crusher holds, and her eventual affection for the live mouse she refused to eat.

Klise, Kate & M. Sarah Klise ***DYING TO MEET YOU***

illus. by M. Sarah Klise 155p. Harcourt 2009 \$15.00 ISBN 978-0-15-205727-5

(43 Old Cemetery Road, Book 1) Told in their usual style of no narrative, just letters, newspapers articles, illustrations, notes, the authors tell of Ignatious B. Grumply, best-selling author of a children's book series, who has rented the old house in Ghastly, IL, only to find it comes with a boy, Seymour, and a ghost. Mr. Grumply has writer's block, and is not pleased his house comes already occupied.

Korman, Gordon ***SWINDLE***

252p. Scholastic 2008 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-439-90344-8

Griffin Bing (6th grader) is "The Man with the Plan" -- he finds an old baseball card in the old Rockford house the night before it is demolished. He is swindled by the local collectible dealer and now is determined to get the card back. With the help of his best friend, Ben, and a carefully selected group of 6th graders, they put the plan into action. Entertaining, contains a strong theme of "kids don't get no respect" tempered with a healthy dose of "what was I thinking?" The humor, the close calls, a proactive group of kids -- all will appeal to readers.

Korman, Gordon ***ZOOBREAK***

230p. Scholastic 2009 \$8.99 ISBN 978-0-545-20027-1; \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-545-12499-9

“The Man with the Plan” is back, and so is his crew. When they learn that All Aboard Animals, a floating zoo, has stolen Savannah’s pet monkey, they come up with a plan to get her back.

Markey, Kevin ***SLUMPBUSTER***

Illus. by Royce Fitzgerald 181p. HarperCollins 2009 \$15.99 ISBN 978-0-06-115218-4

Banjo "The Great Whalloper" Bishbash (11) has a wicked hitting slump while his team is working toward the baseball championship. The slump is manifested as a dark cloud over his head, and it gets in his way sometimes. His friends humorous names, and occasional comments such as, "The place was like a suitcase at the airport. Packed." add to the fun. Still Banjo's slump is real and he knows he needs to find a way to get past it.

McKissack, Patricia C. ***THE HOME-RUN KING***

Illus. by Gordon C. James 92p. Viking 2008 \$14.99 ISBN 978-0-670-01085-1

(Scraps of Time, Bk 4) James and Peter Turner are a year apart, but look like twins. They are baseball crazy during the Depression, and are beyond thrilled when Josh Gibson rooms at their house while his team is in town. Includes a timeline of the Negro Leagues.

Morris, Gerald ***THE ADVENTURES OF SIR LANCELOT THE GREAT***

Illus. by Aaron Renier 92p. Houghton Mifflin 2008 \$15.00 ISBN 978-0-618-77714-3

Humorous, short book with frequent illustrations telling one version of the legend of Sir Lancelot. Scholars will cringe, but readers will laugh out loud. Who knew Sir Lancelot takes an afternoon nap every day?

Morris, Gerald ***THE ADVENTURES OF SIR GIVRET THE SHORT***

Illus. by Aaron Renier 92p. Houghton Mifflin 2008 \$15.00 ISBN 978-0-618-77715-0

Humorous, short book with frequent illustrations telling one version of the legend of Sir Givret. (I had not heard of him before this book.) Again, scholars will cringe, but readers will laugh out loud.

Moss, Marissa ***ALIEN ERASER TO THE RESCUE*** (Max Disaster #1)

Unp. Candlewick Press 2003, 2009 \$6.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-7636-4407-9

Moss, Marissa ***ALIEN ERASER UNRAVELS THE MYSTERY OF THE PYRAMIDS*** (#2)

Unp. Candlewick Press 2009 \$6.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-7636-4408-6

Max keeps a notebook for all of his amazing ideas for inventions. He also uses it as a journal to write his concern about his parents' constant fighting. Lots of illustrations and a few comic style pages will appeal to reluctant readers.

Oliver, Lin ***ATTACK OF THE GROWLING EYEBALLS***

Illus. by Stephen Gilpin 147p. Simon & Schuster 2008 \$14.99 ISBN 978-1-4169-0951-4

(Who Shrunk Daniel Funk?, Bk 1) "You know how your stomach growls when you're really hungry? That's how it started, except the growling wasn't coming from my stomach. It was coming from behind my eyeballs...."Help!" Daniel is the only guy in a houseful of females. Imagine his surprise when he learns he can suddenly shrink to the size of his former big toe... and that he has a twin brother who has always been that size. Granny Nanny has been raising him. Great fun & lots of action (but not always "smart" choices). It should appeal to reluctant readers.

Roy, James ***MAX QUIGLEY: Technically Not a Bully***

202p. Houghton Mifflin 2009 \$12.95 ISBN 978-0-547-15263-9

In the vein of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, this Australian import will be popular with the same crowd. Max is certain he is not a bully – he has never hit anyone. He does convince them to do what he wants. Nerdstrom (well, really Triffin Nordstrom) is assigned to be Max's tutor for math, and things may be changing.

Service, Pamela F. ***MY COUSIN, THE ALIEN***

Illus. by Mike Gorman 155p. Carolrhoda 2008 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-8225-7627-3

(Alien Agent series, #1) Zack and his parents have joined his aunt, uncle and cousin Ethan on a vacation at a resort. Ethan has claimed for years that he is an alien prince being hidden on earth. During this vacation, Zack begins to think it may be true! Lots of fun!

## **Graphic Novels for Grades 2-5**

Kibuishi, Kazu ***THE STONEKEEPER*** (The Amulet, Bk. 1)

187p. Scholastic Graphix 2008 \$9.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-439-84681-3

(Bk 1 of the series) Emily and Navin must rescue their mother, taken by a tentacled beast to a secret land found by traveling passageways under the old family house. Full-color artwork and lots of adventure will appeal to young readers.

Runton, Andy ***OWLY: Tiny Tales***

172p. Top Shelf 2003-2008 \$10.00 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-60309-019-3

The fifth book of this popular character, no text is used in any of the series. The story is completed conveyed through the illustrations. Reading earlier volumes is not necessary. Popular with kids and also with teens (or so the author told me).

Shioya, Hitoshi *DINOSAUR HOUR* Vol. 1  
200p. VIZ Media 2009 \$7.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1421526485

(still on order so haven't read it yet, but have heard good things about it)

Soo, Kean *JELLABY: Monster In The City*  
172p. Hyperion 2009 \$18.99 (PLB) ISBN 978-1-43959088-1; \$9.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-4231-0565-7

Book 2 (it may or may not be the end of the series, hard to tell) (Sequel to Jellaby); Portia Bennett and Jason are taking Jellaby into the city when the story continues. They find the door Jellaby remembers and think they are on the brink of bringing him home, when more trouble occurs. A satisfying continuation of the story.

Steinberg, D. J. *GAME ON!* (The Adventures of Daniel Boom AKA Loud Boy series, Bk 3)  
Illus. by Brian Smith unp. Grosset & Dunlap 2009 \$5.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-448-44700-1

(I have not read the first two volumes) Loud Boy and his friends are super heroes that work with Uncle Stanley. The threat from Kid-Rid (an organization that wants to obliterate kids) is to have them absorbed into a video game. Action, humor, and color illustrations make this adventure appealing. Positive review from *Booklist*.

### **Crossover title: part Novel & part Graphic Novel Grades 2-5**

Vernon, Ursula *DRAGONBREATH*  
148p. Dial 2009 \$12.99 ISBN 978-0-8037-3363-3

Danny Dragonbreath is the only mythical creature attending the Herpitax-Phibbias School for Reptiles and Amphibians. Danny and his best friend Wendell (green iguana) stick together, whether Big Eddy is bullying them (too bad Danny can't breathe fire, yet) or visiting the ocean so Danny can research his paper for class. Black, white and green illustrations. Lots of fun, and looks like the start of a series.

### **Nonfiction for Grades 2-5 (or so)**

Aldrin, Buzz *LOOK TO THE STARS*  
Illus. by Wendell Minor 40p. Putnam 2009 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-399-24721-7



An overview of man's concepts of space, highlighting the U.S. space program. Good introductory information for browsers.

Arnosky, Jim ***SLITHER AND CRAWL***

32p. Sterling 2009 \$14.95 ISBN 978-1-4027-3986-6

Four foldout pages highlight this look at reptiles. Basic information is included on snakes, lizards, turtles, crocodiles and alligators. Some illustrations are marked as actual size, others not labeled as to size.

Bradley, Timothy J. ***PALEO BUGS: Survival of the Creepiest***

47p. Chronicle Books 2008 \$15.99 ISBN 978-0-8118-6022-2

Gives the reader a look at the variety of (often large!) bugs and arthropods from the Paleozoic, Mesozoic, and Cenozoic eras. A side panel on each two-page spread gives a sense of the size of the creature compared to a child.

Kroll, Steven ***BARBARIANS!***

Illus. by Robert Byrd 48p. Dutton 2009 \$18.99 ISBN 978-0-525-47958-1

One chapter each on Goths, Huns, Vikings, and Mongols gives good, basic information about each group.

Markle, Sandra ***INSECTS: Biggest! Littlest!***

Photos by Dr. Simon Pollard 32p. Boyds Mills Press 2009 \$16.95 ISBN 978-1-59078-512-6

Excellent photos highlight this look at very big, and very little insects. Includes a map of the world at the back of the book that points out where each insect mentioned lives.

Pringle, Laurence ***ALLIGATORS AND CROCODILES***

Illus. by Meryl Henderson 32p. Boyds Mills Press 2009 \$16.95 ISBN 978-1-59078-256-9

Good, basic life science information on alligators and crocodiles, including how they are alike and different. Sure to appeal to reluctant readers.

Taylor-Butler, Christine ***SACRED MOUNTAIN EVEREST***

48p. Lee & Low Books 2009 \$19.95 ISBN 978-1-60060-255-9

A photo-essay of the people of Everest, their culture, the animals, and the geography and climate of their world. Also mentions some of the climbers, Sir Edmund Hillary for one.

Thomas, Lynn **100% PURE FAKE**

48p. Kids Can Press 2009 \$16.95 ISBN 978-1-55453-290-2

How to make fake vomit, fake dog poo and more! Includes the necessary cautions re: using the stove or a sharp knife.

**YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO** series:

Graham, Ian (You Wouldn't Want To) **BE ON THE HINDENBURG!**

Illus. by David Antram 32p. Scholastic 2009 \$29.00 ISBN 978-0-531-20823-6

MacDonald, Fiona (You Wouldn't Want To) **MEET A BODY SNATCHER!**

Illus. by David Antram 32p. Scholastic 2009 \$29.00 ISBN 978-0-531-20822-9

This popular series tells of historic events in a humorous, and gruesome way. Illustrations dominate the pages, with snippets of information, and plenty of smart-aleck remarks.

## **Fiction for Younger Teens**

Balliett, Blue **THE CALDER GAME**

Illus. by Brett Helquist 371p. Scholastic 2008 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-439-85207-4

Calder (now in 7th grade) and his dad take a trip to England. By coincidence, the small town where they are staying recently was given a stationary Calder piece of art. When the sculpture and the boy both disappear the same night, Calder's father asks Petra and Tommy to fly over to assist in the search, since they know how Calder thinks. A celebration of the mobiles designed by Alexander Calder, some activities students could do, and a puzzling mystery. As good as the other titles in the series.

Bartoletti, Susan Campbell **THE BOY WHO DARED**

196p. Scholastic 2008 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-439-68013-4

A fictionalized account of a true event. Helmuth Hübener, a teenager in Nazi Germany, was required to join the Hitler Youth organization, and soon had his fill of them. He furtively did what he could to work against the Nazis. He listened to forbidden radio reports from Britain and was surprised to learn the English told their people the truth about successes and failures in battle. His disgust at the many new laws and changes in Germany led him to find a way to do whatever he could. He furtively did what he could to work against the Nazis and hand wrote pamphlets telling the German people the truth.

Bodeen, S.A. **THE COMPOUND**

245p. Feiwel & Friends 2008 \$16.95 ISBN 978-0-312-37015-2

As it says inside the book jacket, "Eli and his family have lived in the Compound for six years. The world they knew is gone. Eli's father built the Compound to keep them safe. Now, they

can't get out. He won't let them..." Eli, now 15, has been told the world was destroyed by nuclear war. Now he is not so certain.

Buckingham, Royce **DEMONKEEPER**

216p. Putnam 2007 \$15.99 ISBN 978-0-399-24649-4; \$7.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-14-241166-7

Nat Grimlock (15? 16?) is now the Keeper of the demons restricted to his house in Seattle. He misses his mentor, Dhaliwahl, and even though he was warned to avoid females, he ends up on a date with the lonely junior librarian assistant, Sandy. Of course, this is the night the most horrible demon of all escapes the house. Slapstick humor, a touch of horror, and likeable heroes make this a fun read. Will appeal to reluctant readers.

Brewer, Heather. **EIGHTH GRADE BITES: The Chronicles of Vladimir Tod. Vol. 1.**

192p. Puffin 2007, 2008 \$7.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-14-241187-2

Brewer, Heather. **NINTH GRADE SLAYS: The Chronicles of Vladimir Tod. Vol. 2.**

288p. Puffin 2008, 2009 \$7.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-14-241342-5

Brewer, Heather. **TENTH GRADE BLEEDS: The Chronicles of Vladimir Tod. Vol. 3**

292p. Dutton 2009 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-525-42135-1

The ongoing saga of half-vampire Vlad, in and out of school. He continues to learn new vampire skills and is trying hard to survive. There is something of a conspiracy against him, after all, he shouldn't exist; and he is not sure who he can trust. (I haven't read the third book, yet.)

Bruchac, Joseph **NIGHT WINGS**

194p. HarperCollins 2009 \$15.99 ISBN 978-0-06-112318-4

Paul (13) and his grandfather are Abenaki and have been kidnapped by treasure hunters to lead them to the legendary treasure of an Abenaki monster on a mountain near their home. Good tension and a touch of the scary.

Hobbs, Will **GO BIG OR GO HOME**

185p. Harper Collins Publishers 2008 \$16.89 ISBN 978-0-06-074142-6

Extreme sports enthusiasts, Brady Steele (14) and his cousin Quinn get together often to bike ride in the South Dakota badlands. One night when he is home alone a meteorite falls through Brady's roof. In the next few days Brady realizes he can out-bike and out-dunk Quinn (he never could before) and he has lightning quick reactions. Is it the results of microbes in the meteorite? And are they doing good, or harm?

Myers, Walter Dean **GAME**

218p. HarperTeen 2008 \$17.89 (PLB) ISBN 978-0-06-058295-1

Drew Lawson is determined to get to college, and basketball is his ticket. He is without doubt Harlem High School's best player. Then the coach brings in a new - white- player who could take the scouts' interest. Drew is challenged to listen better to the coach, be a team player, and keep his cool for the rest of the season. In English class they are studying Othello, and savvy readers may note some similarities between the play and the basketball situation.

Volponi, Paul ***HURRICANE SONG***

144p. Viking 2008 \$15.99 ISBN 978-0-670-06160-0; \$7.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-14-241418-7

Miles, his father and uncle, both jazz musicians, must take refuge in the Superdome when Hurricane Katrina hits New Orleans. Their experiences give a sense of the terrible conditions people endured during that time. The occasional curse word is understandable, considering their situation.

## **Nonfiction for Teens**

***ARTIST TO ARTIST: 23 Major Illustrators Talk to Children About Their Art***

105p. Philomel 2007 \$30.00 ISBN 978-0-399-24600-5

A great books for browsing and learning about different illustrators, their techniques, and their approach to their art.

Deem, James M. ***BODIES FROM THE ICE: Melting Glaciers and the Recovery of the Past***

53p. Houghton Mifflin 2008 \$17.00 ISBN 978-0-618-89945-2

A photo-essay of the recovery of bodies from European glaciers, most a couple of hundred years old, one is from the Copper Age, he's about 5,300 years old. The author of *Bodies from the Ash* and *Bodies from the Bog* has another title to fascinate teen readers.

Fleischman, Sid ***THE TROUBLE BEGINS AT 8***

224p. Greenwillow 2008 \$18.99 ISBN 978-0-06-134431-2

An extremely readable biography of Mark Twain. The last chapter hits on the fact that Twain was a storyteller and some of his supposed experiences were likely just that, "stories." Includes an index and time line.

Hampton, Wilborn ***UP CLOSE, BABE RUTH: A Twentieth-Century Life***

189p. Viking 2009 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-670-06305-5

(Sorry, I haven't read it yet, but have read other titles in the series. This one gets good reviews from *Booklist* and *School Library Journal*)

Hargrave, John *MISCHIEF MAKER'S MANUAL*  
270p. Grosset & Dunlap 2009 \$15.99 ISBN 978-0-448-44982-1

I have read snippets, it is full of practical joke-type ideas. The reviews emphasize that the book constantly reminds reader that pranks should do no harm, and help clean up your mess.

Jackson, Donna M. *EXTREME SCIENTISTS: Exploring Nature's Mysteries from Perilous Places*  
67p. Houghton Mifflin 2009 \$18.00 ISBN 978-0-618-77706-8

The stories of three different scientists is told. One flies into the eyes of hurricanes to collect data. One explores caves hunting microbes that live in extreme conditions. The third is the first person to climb into and research the life at the top of the Redwoods.

Noyes, Deborah *ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE END: Mysterious Death in Fact, Fancy, Folklore and More* 136p. Houghton Mifflin 2008 \$25.00 ISBN 978-0-618-82362-8

The encyclopedic look at many things connected with death is sure to have an audience. Entries include: assassination, body snatching, cryonics, hearse, limbo, pyre, and soul. The author includes Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism and other religions where appropriate to the topic.

Smithson, Ryan *GHOSTS OF WAR: The True Story of a 19-Year-Old GI*  
320p. HarperCollins 2009 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-06-166468-7

A look at the war in Iraq through one young man's experience. He was a member of an equipment crew who repaired craters made by IEDs, moved earth to create berms, and occasionally interacted with the children of Iraq. Language is crude at times, and one scene is quite hard to read – they are salvaging armor from a vehicle in which two soldiers died.

*TIME LIVING WONDERS: The Marvels and Mysteries of Life on Earth*  
122p. Time 2008 \$39.93 ISBN 978-0-7613-4229-8

Beautiful photographs highlight this look at our planet. Great for browsing, but not as helpful for reports. No index.

## **Fiction for Older Teens**

Collins, Suzanne *THE HUNGER GAMES*  
374p. Scholastic 2008 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-439-02348-1

The first book of a projected trilogy, Katniss Everdeen (16) volunteers to take the place of her younger sister, Prim, in the Reaping. Each year, each of the districts of Panem (formerly the U.S.) must send 2 children to participate in the Games. They fight each other and nature until there is one survivor. Some gruesome situations occur. I am assured it is being read by boys! The sequel, *Catching Fire*, comes out September 1, 2009.

Crutcher, Chris ***ANGRY MANAGEMENT***

246p. HarperCollins 2009 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-06-050247-8

Three excellent short stories, each of one or two earlier Crutcher characters. As expected, language will be an issue for some libraries.



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