

One World, Many Stories

2011 Summer Reading Program

Nebraska Regional Library Systems workshops
February and March 2011

Sally Snyder
Nebraska Library Commission



Picture Books

Baker, Jeannie *MIRROR* ✓

Unp. Candlewick Press 2010 \$18.99 ISBN 978-0-7636-4848-0
Two stories told side by side. One is about a boy in Sydney, Australia; one is about a boy in Morocco. One in English, one in Arabic (I assume). The stories show the differences between their lives, but also the similarities. A wonderful addition to your collection for this summer's theme. (Keep an eye on the rug.)

Barner, Bob *BEARS! BEARS! BEARS!* ✓

Unp. Chronicle Books 2010 \$14.99 ISBN 978-0-8118-7057-3
Each two-page spread has an illustration and one sentence about different bears from around the world. Good introduction & could be fun for a Toddler Time (we'll ignore the fact that pandas technically are not bears). The back of the book has one more sentence each about the bears, and a two-page spread of a world map noting where the bears can be found.

Bates, Janet Costa *SEASIDE DREAMS* ✓

Illus. by Lambert Davis unp. Lee & Low Books 2010 \$17.95 ISBN 978-1-60060-347-1
The longing for family left behind in the Old Country is evoked in this look at Grandma's 70th birthday celebration. Grandma tells her granddaughter, Cora, of how she still misses her sister even though she left Cape Verde (pronounced: Vurd) 40 years ago. Cora gives her a wonderful gift for her birthday. An Author's Note gives information on Cape Verde, and a brief glossary is also included.

Birdsall, Jeanne *FLORA'S VERY WINDY DAY* ✓

Illus. by Matt Phelan unp. Clarion Books 2010 \$16.00 ISBN 978-0-618-98676-7
Flora is tired of her younger brother getting into her things. So they go outside, where the wind blows Crispin away. Flora kicks off her boots and lets the wind take her, too. They encounter a number of animals and items that have a use for Crispin, but Flora always says, "No. He's my brother and I'm taking him home." Quite an adventurous day

Blabey, Aaron **SUNDAY CHUTNEY**

Unp. Front Street 2009 \$16.95 ISBN 978-1-59078-597-3

Sunday has lived all over the world, because of her father's job. She handles the changes quite well since she says "I enjoy my own company...and I have an excellent imagination." and she has lots of interests. She does point out that moving so often means she is always starting at a new school, so she is often the "new weird kid." But Sunday can handle that and much more. Good look at some positives and negatives of a traveling lifestyle

Blessing, Charlotte **NEW OLD SHOES**

Illus. by Gary R. Phillips unp. Pleasant St. Press 2009 \$16.95 ISBN 978-0-9792035-6-5

One child's brand new shoes are worn and enjoyed. The shoes talk about all the things they do with the child who chose them. Then the shoes are placed in a box and sent across the ocean to Africa, where they once again are worn, enjoyed, and do different things. And a third time, and a fourth time they are used as the hands for a scarecrow. Will there be a fifth time? A one-page note at the end of the book talks about Sole4Souls, an organization that sends used shoes to those who need them.

Briant, Ed **DON'T LOOK NOW**

Unp. Roaring Brook Press 2009 \$16.95 ISBN 978-1-59643-345-8

Two brothers in the backyard use "Don't look now!" as a ploy to take whatever the other is using. Soon it escalates until they are riding the patio table into another (fantasy) jungle world. It takes teamwork for them to escape and find their way home.

Brown, Monica **CHAVELA AND THE MAGIC BUBBLE**

Illus. by Magaly Morales unp. Clarion Books 2010 \$16.00 ISBN 978-0-547-24197-5

Chavela loves to chew gum and blow big, creative bubbles. One day she finds a new gum: Magic Chicle. When she chews it all and blows a bubble she soon floats away over California, Arizona, Texas and on to "the jungles of the Yucatan" of Mexico. Here she finds sapodilla trees, which produce the chicle, some chicleros, who collect the chicle that drips from the trees, and a friendly little girl. Her magical adventure ends with her falling asleep to wake up at home. Colorful, whimsical art will attract readers. Good information in the author's note at the back of the book about chicle and chicleros.

Buzzeo, Toni **ADVENTURE ANNIE GOES TO KINDERGARTEN**

Illus. by Amy Wummer unp. Dial 2010 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-8037-3358-9

Follow-up to Adventure Annie Goes to Work, this finds her eager for her first day of kindergarten. She is hoping for a wild animal or circus or search-and-find adventure there. Mom says, "Sometimes kindergarten is its own adventure." Exuberant art work by Buzzeo adds to the fun.

Cousins, Lucy **MAISY GOES ON VACATION** ✓

Unp. Candlewick Press 2010 \$12.99 ISBN 978-0-7636-4752-0

Maisy and her friend, Cyril, pack their bags and hop on the train. They are going on vacation! The train takes them to the ocean where they have fun on the beach. A good first look at packing, traveling, and enjoying a new place.

Crowley, Ned **NANOOK & PRYCE: Gone Fishing**

Illus. by Larry Day unp. HarperCollins \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-06-1336416

Nanook & Pryce spend the day ice fishing with their dog, Yukon. They don't seem to notice that the ice they are on breaks away and takes them on a trip around the world. Keep an eye on the worms. Good fun with a map of the world on the endpapers that indicates their route.

Foley, Greg **WILLOUGHBY & THE MOON**

Unp. HarperCollins 2010 \$18.99 ISBN 978-0-06-154753-9

This second book about Willoughby (*Willoughby & the Lion*) finds him taking a trip to the moon (though his closet). He wants to find where it went after getting smaller and smaller. He makes a friend in a giant snail, finds a moon buggy, an empty space pod, and a way to rocket to the other side of the moon, and his closet door to return home. Quite an adventure, and now he knows where the moon is.

Grandits, John **THE TRAVEL GAME**

Illus. by R. W. Alley 32p. Clarion Books 2009 \$16.00 ISBN 978-0-618-56420-0

After working hard all morning in the family business, a boy and his aunt play "the travel game" after lunch where the boy puts his finger on the spinning globe, and they visit that place through the photos in their book *1001 Pictures from Around the World*.

Helakoski, Leslie **BIG CHICKENS GO TO TOWN** ✓

Illus. by Henry Cole unp. Dutton 2010 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-525-42162-7

The four chickens are pecking on a bag of feed in the back of the truck when the farmer begins to drive away. They are worried and confused, but still eating the feed. They get lost when the truck gets to town and fear they will never see their farm again. Great language and rhyming throughout. "The chickens bawled, squalled and caterwauled."

Horowitz, Dave **DUCK, DUCK, MOOSE**

Unp. Putnam 2009 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-399-24782-8

Duck and Duck are getting ready to travel south. Moose wants to get pancakes, but everything is closed, and bear is hibernating so he joins the ducks. They have a lovely road trip and wonderful vacation in Florida before it is time to return home to New Hampshire. Silly fun.

Hyde, Heidi Smith **FEIVEL'S FLYING HORSES**

Illus. by Johanna van der Sterre unp. Kar-Ben Pub. 2010 \$17.95 ISBN 978-0-7613-3957-1

Set in the late 1800s, Feivel has come to America for a better life for his family. He was a woodcarver, and finds a job making furniture to save money to bring his family over. It isn't until his cousin takes him to Coney Island that he finds a newer job carving horses for the carousel. He dreams of his wife and children and carves a horse for each that reflects that individual's traits and personality. His family eventually (3 yrs) joins him in America. Includes an Historical Note at the back of the book.

Isadora, Rachel **SAY HELLO**

Unp. Putnam 2010 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-399-25230-3

A girl and her mother walk to Abuela Rosa's house, saying hello to the many different people along the way, in Japanese, Arabic, Spanish and other languages. Bright colorful collages illustrate the story. Pronunciation for 9 of the words is given at the back of the book.

Javaherbin, Mina **GOAL!**

Illus. by A. G. Ford unp. Candlewick Press 2010 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-7636-4571-7

Several boys who live in a village in South Africa are thrilled to begin their daily soccer game, played after all their work is done. One boy has a new soccer ball, a prize for being his class's best reader. When some bullies come along, the boys find a clever way to trick them. Wonderful illustrations highlight this story of hard work, some danger, and the joy of play.

Michelson, Richard **BUSING BREWSTER**

Illus. by R. G. Roth unp. Alfred A. Knopf 2010 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-375-83334-2

In 1974, Brewster is ready for first grade when he and his older brother learn they are going to be bused to the "white school" Central, instead of their neighborhood school, Franklin. This fictional story gives an account of their first day at the new school, the protestors and students causing trouble, but all it told with the audience in mind. A rock flying through the bus window and some pushing at the water fountain are the only instances of violence. A look at one time in our nation's history.

Plourde, Lynn **FIELD TRIP DAY**

Illus. by Thor Wickstrom unp. Dutton 2010 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-525-47994-9

Mrs. Shepherd's class (as seen in *Book Fair Day*, *School Picture Day* and more) are visiting a local organic farm. While they learn things, they also constantly have to find where Juan Dore-Nomad. He is always one step ahead of his classmates (and the farmer!). And where could those missing calves be? Good fun!

Reynolds, Peter H. **ROSE'S GARDEN** ✓

Unp. Candlewick Press 2009 \$15.99 ISBN 978-0-7636-4641-7

Rose travels around the world in her teapot, collecting seeds from all the places she has been. Eventually, she finds just the right place in the city to plant her seeds. When the seeds she collected are eaten by the birds, all but a few, she plants those few and waits. The children of the city, who have also come from all over the world, bring her stories and paper flowers. Wonderful. The author notes this book is his tribute to Rose Kennedy.

Rylant, Cynthia **BROWNIE & PEARL STEP OUT**

Illus. by Brian Biggs unp. Beach Lane Books 2009 \$12.99 ISBN 978-1-4169-8632-4

Going someplace new, to a birthday party, Brownie is a little shy and afraid to knock on the door. (But Pearl has no problem knocking for her!)

Say, Allen ***ERIKA-SAN***

Unp. Houghton Mifflin 2009 \$17.00 ISBN 978-0-618-88933-4

A picture book for a little older reader, SLJ says gr 3-5.

As a child, Erica loved the small print of a lighted cottage her grandpa had bought in Japan many years ago. As she grew she studied all she could about Japan and Japanese. Then after college she got a teaching job on a remote island in Japan. She enjoys living in Japan, makes friends there and eventually finds a cottage like the one in her grandfather's print.

Segal, John ***FAR FAR AWAY***

Unp. Philomel Books 2009 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-399-25007-1

A disagreement at the grocery store, which occurs on the title page, title page verso, and dedication page, prompts a young pig to decide to run away from home. Told all in brief dialog, the mother suggests the boy take a tent, sleeping bag and much more along with him. The coupe de gras is when she mentions he can't take a piece of cake because it is ready yet. Hits an idea that has occurred to almost every kid, and includes some humor for the adult sharing the book.

Williams, Karen Lynn and Khadra Mohammed ***MY NAME IS SANGOEL***

Illus. by Catherine Stock unp. Eerdman's Books 2009 \$17.00 ISBN 978-0-8028-5307-3

Refugees from Sudan, Sangoel, his mother and sister find a home in the U.S. Their sponsor, the nurse, the teachers, the children – no one can pronounce his name. He cleverly designs a t-shirt to let everyone know his name is "sun-goal." Gives a sense of the many changes when a family moves to a new country.

Nonfiction Picture Books

Bond, Rebecca ***IN THE BELLY OF AN OX: The Unexpected Photographic Adventures of*** ✓

Richard and Cherry Kearton unp. Houghton Mifflin 2009 \$16.00 ISBN 978-0-547-07675-1

A picture book biography of two brothers who grew up loving to watch and study wildlife in Yorkshire, England, but as adults worked in publishing in London. When Cherry bought a new camera, took it to the country and photographed a bird's nest, they got an idea. They spent three years, invented all kinds of blinds, and reportedly traveled 30,000 miles around Britain before their book came out in 1895, *British Birds Nests*. They changed how people related to nature. Includes some actual photos taken by them and of them. A terrific look at how inspiration can change the world.

Kudela, Katy R. ***MY FIRST BOOK OF FRENCH WORDS***

32p. Capstone Press 2010 \$25.99 (PLB) ISBN 978-1-4296-3295-9; \$7.95 (pbk) 978-1-4296-4369-6

Two-page photographs of familiar scenes include labels giving the French word and pronunciation for 130 basic nouns. While we might wonder why there is a tractor but no other farm equipment, the effort is to give a beginning point, and the pages are not too cluttered with text.

Kudela, Katy R. ***MY FIRST BOOK OF SPANISH WORDS***

32p. Capstone Press 2010 \$25.99 (PLB) ISBN 978-1-4296-3298-0; \$7.95 (pbk) 978-1-4296-3852-4

The same photos are now labeled with the Spanish word and pronunciation for the same words.

Marx, Trish ***KINDERGARTEN DAY USA AND CHINA*** ✓

unp. Charlesbridge 2010 \$16.95 ISBN 978-1-58089-219-3; \$7.95 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-58089-220-9
A look at a day in a kindergarten class, in the USA, and then – flip the book – it’s a day in a kindergarten class in China. Basic information but a fun look at a familiar place in a different land.

St. George, Judith ***ZARIFA: The Giraffe Who Walked to the King***

Illus by Britt Spencer unp. Philomel 2009 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-399-25049-1
The story of a young giraffe’s journey from Africa (Sudan) to Paris, a gift to the French king from the ruler of Egypt. She traveled by boat (felucca) to Alexandria, and by ship to Marseille. From there she walked to Paris, drawing crowds all along the way. (It took 41 days). “She had sailed 2,000 miles down the Nile River, more than 1,500 miles across the Mediterranean Sea, and walked more than 500 miles” to Paris.

Beginning Readers & Early Chapter Books

Berenstain, Jan and Mike ***ALL ABOARD!***

Illus. by Mike Berenstain 32p. HarperCollins 2010 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-06-168971-0
The Bear family is taking a trip across Bear Country to visit their Aunt Tillie. This book is about the trip, Brother and Sister find the train exciting. They enjoy looking out the window with their parents, and they especially enjoy visiting the engineer!

Egan, Tim ***DODSWORTH IN NEW YORK***

Unp. Houghton Mifflin 2007 \$15.00 ISBN 978-0-618-77708-2
The first book of three, Dodsworth has decided he wants an adventure. He stops for pancakes at Hodges restaurant and then boards the train for New York. Hodges’ duck has stowed away in his suitcase and his visit to New York is full of hunting for the duck (and seeing some sites along the way). When Dodsworth calls Hodges to tell him where the duck is, Hodges apologizes for the duck ruining his adventure. Dodsworth reply is wonderful. (“Ruined it? He *was* the adventure!”)

Egan, Tim ***DODSWORTH IN PARIS***

Unp. Houghton Mifflin 2008 \$15.00 ISBN 978-0-618-98062-8
The second book in the series.
Dodsworth and his friend, the duck, have just arrived, via ship, in Paris. They visit some sites and have some adventures (it would be easier if the duck would stop causing trouble).

Egan, Tim ***DODSWORTH IN LONDON***

Unp. Houghton Mifflin 2009 \$15.00 ISBN 978-0-547-13816-9
A hot air balloon drops Dodsworth and the duck in London. A case of mistaken identity results in Dodsworth accompanying the wrong duck around London.

Fiction for Grades 2-5 (or so)

Birney, Betty G. ***SUMMER ACCORDING TO HUMPHREY*** ✓

167p. G. P. Putnam's Sons 2010 \$14.99 ISBN 978-0-399-24732-3
(Bk 6) Humphrey is upset when he learns school is "ending!" What will Og and he do? No problem, they are joining Ms. Mac (just back from Brazil) and some other people he knows at Camp Happy Hollow. A new place to explore, new friends along with old, and a fun (or scary?) summer is ahead. Maintains the interest level and the quality of the series.

Cervantes, Jennifer ***TORTILLA SUN*** ✓

224p. Chronicle Books 2010 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-8118-7015-3
Izzy (12) is sent from California to a tiny town in New Mexico to spend the summer with her grandmother (whom she hasn't seen since she was 6). It is here that she learns about her Hispanic heritage and about her father. Her mother has not talked about him since his death and Izzy longs to know more. Her journey to explore the past brings her love and sorrow; and includes some magic realism. The title also includes a glossary of Spanish words and a recipe for flour tortillas.

Cheng, Andrea ***ONLY ONE YEAR***

Illus. by Nichole Wong 93p. Lee & Low Books 2010 \$16.95 ISBN 978-1-60060-252-8
Sharon (9) and her sister are surprised and saddened that their parents are sending their 2-yr-old brother, Di Di (Dee Dee) to China for a year to live with his grandparents. The emptiness when he first leaves, and their discomfort when he returns are well portrayed. Includes an Author's Note at the back of the book.

Clements, Andrew ***EXTRA CREDIT***

183p. Atheneum 2009 \$16.99 ISBN 978-1-4169-4929-9
Abby Carson has let her studies go, and now she may have to repeat the 6th grade. She agrees to the teachers' conditions, including an extra-credit project: becoming a pen pal to a child in another country: she chose Afghanistan. Some chapters are told from the point of view of Sadeed Bayat (11), best student in his small school in Afghanistan. As they learn more about each other, the discomfort of others causes trouble.

Cowell, Cressida ***HOW TO RIDE A DRAGON STORM***

254p. Little, Brown 2008 \$10.99 ISBN 978-0-316-07916-7
(The Heroic Misadventures of Hiccup the Viking, #7) Hiccup, Fishlegs and Camacazi are supposed to be competing in the Intertribal Friendly Swimming Race. Instead, they are kidnapped and end up on Norbert the Nutjob's large boat. He and his crew take them along on their trip to America. Many adventures occur during the trip. Still great fun.

Doerr, Bonnie J. ***ISLAND STING***

244p. Leap Books 2009 \$11.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-61603-002-5
(orig pub in 2003 as Kenzie's Key, "has been revised significantly")
Kenzie and her mom have just moved to Big Pine Key in Florida from New York since splitting with her father. Kenzie rescued a key deer from drowning in a canal and now she wants to learn all about

them, and she wouldn't mind getting to know Angelo better. Kenzie has a lot to learn about this new place, the beauty and the dangers.

Draper, Sharon M. **SASSY: The Birthday Storm**

112p. Scholastic 2009 \$ ISBN 978-0-545-07152-9; \$4.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-545-22695-0 (Sassy, #2) Sassy (9) and her family travel from Ohio to their grandparents home in Florida to celebrate Grammy's birthday. A hurricane may be on the way, and when Sassy finds a sea turtle nest, Grammy contacts a man to check if the nest will be safe during the storm. The whole family ends up helping him move the nest. But will Grammy's birthday party be ruined?

Edwards, Julie Andrews and Emma Walton Hamilton **LITTLE BO IN ITALY** ✓

Illus. by Henry Cole 105p. HarperCollins 2010 \$19.99 ISBN 978-0-06-008908-5 [1st title: Little Bo: The Story of Bonnie Boadicea (c1999); 2nd: Little Bo in France: The Further Adventures of Bonnie Boadicea (c2002) (by Andrews only)] so this is Book #3. Bo, a cat, and her friend, Billy, are traveling on Lord and Lady Goodlad's yacht. Billy is working as a sailor. Bo hopes to find her other littermates as they travel around the shores of Italy, but they run into quite a spot of trouble! Full-color illustrations on almost every two-page spread will appeal to young readers.

Galante, Cecilia **WILLOWOOD** ✓

265p. Aladdin c2010 \$16.99 ISBN 978-1-4169-8022-3 Lily (5th grade) and her mother have just moved from the country to the city. She misses her best friend and the quiet freedom she had before, now she must not wander about on her own. Amanda is the class favorite, and a bully. Between a bully at school and nothing fun to do, Lily is thrilled when her neighbor invites her to visit the local pet shop. She meets the owner and his son, Nate, a 36 yr old with Down's Syndrome. Lily and Nate form a beginning friendship, when she inadvertently causes him to over-react to something she did.

Geisert, Bonnie **PRAIRIE WINTER**

218p. Houghton Mifflin 2009 \$16.00 ISBN 978-0-618-68588-2 Sequel to *Prairie Summer* and *Lessons*. In 1955-56, Rachel (12, in 6th grade) loves school and her teacher. But living on a farm with no telephone is hard. Chores are worse in the cold. Her parents decide to have Rachel and her older sisters stay in town to continue with school. This will be a very different way of life -- no chores for Rachel!

Greenhut, Josh **THE AMAZING MEXICAN SECRET**

Illus. by Macky Pamintuan 89p. HarperCollins 2010 \$15.99 ISBN 978-0-06-142999-6 (Flat Stanley's Worldwide Adventures, #5) Stanley is being sent to different places and countries to help people out. In previous books he traveled to: Mount Rushmore, Egypt, Japan and Canada. Now he is mailed to Mexico to help his friend, Carlos, find out what the secret ingredient is in his family's seasoning. Stanley hopes to meet Carlos's great grand-mother and convince her the secret will be safe with them. Plenty of illustrations and larger type will appeal to new chapter book readers.

Hahn, Mary Downing ***CLOSED FOR THE SEASON: A Mystery Story***

182p. Clarion Books 2009 \$16.00 ISBN 978-0-547-08451-0

Logan (13) and his parents have just moved to a new town and an old, creepy house. Their neighbor Arthur (11 almost 12) quickly informs them the previous owner was murdered in the house. Logan does not want to spend time with goofy, irritating Arthur, but soon they are looking into who may have killed her, and whether she embezzled money from the now closed theme park "The Magic Forest."

Holm, Jennifer L. ***TURTLE IN PARADISE*** ✓

185p. Random House c2010 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-375-83688-6

Turtle is sent to live with her aunt and cousins in Key West when her mother is threatened with job loss (she's a housekeeper) during the Depression. Turtle finds herself in the midst of a new and unusual life. Her boy cousins are members of the Diaper Gang, they take care of neighborhood babies for the day, for candy. And they are good at it. Turtle learns about their approach to day care, things to be wary of (like scorpions) and finds what might be a treasure map. An exciting summer for the newcomer. Concludes with an Author's Note about Key West at that time.

Holub, Joan & Suzanne Williams ***ATHENA THE BRAIN*** ✓

160p. Aladdin 2010 \$5.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-4169-8271-5

(Goddess Girls, Bk 1)

Athena is 12 when she receives a message from her father -- Zeus! She is summoned to attend Mount Olympus Academy with other godboys and goddessgirls. Stunned to learn Zeus is her father, she leaves her best friend's home and finds everything new at the Academy. (It's like Middle School with pre-teen and teen gods and goddesses.) A fun, quick read with clever touches: the Trojan War was actually a class assignment in Hero-ology.

Knudson, Mide ***RAYMOND & GRAHAM, COOL CAMPERS***

Illus. by Stacy Curtis 156p. Viking 2010 \$14.99 ISBN 978-0-670-01206-0

(Book 4) This is the first summer they can go for a week at Camp Grizzly. They have great plans for being the coolest kids at camp, but somehow things get in their way. Like their cabin decides to be the Toad Claws instead of something cool like the Sharks. They have some trouble and also a great time. Humorous, with some lessons learned.

LaFleur, Suzanne ***LOVE, AUBREY***

262p. Random House 2009 \$15.99 ISBN 978-0-385-73774-6; \$18.99 (PLB) ISBN 978-0-385-90686-9

Aubrey (11) is living alone since her mother left. We learn her father and younger sister were killed in a car accident. Her grandmother comes to Virginia and takes Aubrey home with her to Vermont. Aubrey has a lot to deal with, and at first she avoids doing so. With her grandmother, and new best friend's help, she begins to heal.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds ***FAITH, HOPE AND IVY JUNE***

280p. Delacorte Press 2009 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-385-73615-2; \$19.99 (PLB) ISBN 978-0-385-90588-6

Ivy June has been chosen as her school's exchange student (7th grade). She will spend two weeks of spring vacation with Catherine Combs in Lexington, Kentucky. Then Catherine will spend two weeks at Ivy June's home in coal country, the mountains of Kentucky. They may live in the same state, but both

will feel culture shock and homesickness. Well-written, and girls will connect with the two main characters.

Nolan, Lucy **HOME ON THE RANGE**

Illus. by Mike Reed 54p. Marshall Cavendish 2010 \$14.99 ISBN 978-0-7614-5649-0
(Down Girl and Sit, #4) Off on vacation with their masters to a Dude Ranch, Down Girl and Sit have their own unique take on the terrain, the local animals, and reasons why they must help move cows from here to there. It's a strange new world to the "city dogs."

Railsback, Lisa **BETTI ON THE HIGH WIRE**

277p. Dial Books 2010 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-8037-3388-6
Babo (10) becomes Betti when she is adopted by an American family. She doesn't want to leave her unnamed country or the group of children she has led; but her best friend, George is also being adopted. She goes along to help him get settled, then she will run away, back to her group of leftover kids who live where the circus used to be. Betti is resistant but her adoptive family is more than understanding. This story of loss, love, and determination is an unusual approach to the refugee story

St. John, Lauren **THE ELEPHANT'S TALE**

221p. Dial Books 2010 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-8037-3291-9
(Book 4, & final book in series)
Martine (almost 12) and her grandmother are going to lose Sawubona, their South African game reserve, unless something can be done about Reuben James' claim. Grandmother flies to London to see what she can find out about the claim, and Martine and her friend, Ben, hide on Mr. James private plan and end up in the desert of Namibia. They have only days to save Sawubona. Adventure, animals, Martine's special ability to communicate with animals -- all will appeal to tween readers.

Senzai, N. H. **SHOOTING KABUL** ✓

258p. Simon & Schuster 2010 \$16.99 ISBN 978-1-4424-0194-5
Fadi (11) and his family flee Afghanistan but are heart-broken that during their flight, Fadi's younger sister, Mariam (6) is accidentally left behind. Others are searching for her and meanwhile Fadi and his family work to fit in to their new lives in Oakland, CA. Fadi must cope with bullies at school, especially after the events of 9/11. He finds the Photography Club at school to be perfect for him. And maybe winning the photo contest will help his family find Mariam.

Service, Pamela F. **ALIEN EXPEDITION**

151p. Carolrhoda Books 2009 \$16.95 ISBN 978-0-8225-8870-2
(Bk 3) Agent Zack (about 11 or so), was adopted as a baby and found out in Bk 1 that he is an alien agent for the Galactic Union (and he was activated too early - for the good of Earth). He and his parents win a surprise trip to an archaeological dig in Mongolia. His parents are thrilled, but Zack knows it is another secret assignment for him. He is to keep the dinosaur-like aliens who also have a dig nearby from being seen. He meets locals his age, Jargul and Segi, and learns a bit about another culture. Humor and action will appeal to readers.

Sheth, Kashmira ***BOYS WITHOUT NAMES***

305p. HarperCollins 2010 \$15.99 ISBN 978-0-06-185760-7

Gopal (11) and his family must leave their rural home in India and move to the city of Mumbai. His father disappears on his way to find Gopal's uncle, they don't know what happened. Gopal wants to find work to help support his mother and six year old brother and sister. His naiveté allows him to be drugged and sold to glue beads on frames all day with several other boys. Their lives are terrible, and Gopal is determined to escape.

Snyder, Zilpha Keatley ***WILLIAM S. AND THE GREAT ESCAPE***

214p. Atheneum Books 2009 \$16.99 ISBN 978-1-4169-6763-7

William (just short of 13) has known for years he will run away, the older members of Baggett family are just too mean. Now the older Baggett boys have flushed his sister's guinea pig down the toilet, and she is running away. Jancy (11) convinces William that the four youngest Baggetts must all leave together. Jancy, Trixie (6), Buddy (4) head for Aunt Fiona's house, over 100 miles away. The journey is an adventure, but the fear that Aunt Fiona will not take them in hovers over William and Jancy.

Stone, Phoebe ***THE ROMEO AND JULIET CODE*** ✓

296p. Scholastic 2011 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-545-21511-4

Felicity (11) arrives at her grandmother's seaside home in Maine for her first visit, and to escape the bombing of London. Her parents drop her off and soon leave. Felicity, now dubbed Flissy, is left with several mysteries. One being: where have her parents gone and why can't they write to her. Derek (12) is recovering from polio and the two are soon working together to discover the secrets of the house. Aunt Miami has an obsession with Romeo and Juliet and that plays into one of the mysteries. The cover is not the book, except that Flissy does quite like Derek.

Wallace, Rich ***SPORTS CAMP***

149p. Knopf 2010 \$18.99 (PLB) ISBN 978-0-375-94059-0; \$15.99 ISBN 978-0-375-84059-3

Riley (11), one of the smallest and youngest campers, hopes to contribute to his cabin's total score in the annual competition for the Big Joe Trophy. Riley is a strong swimmer and runner, but not as skilled at basketball or baseball. Lots of sports action, a few pranks and spooky occurrences (or is it the power of suggestion?), will appeal to sports oriented readers. The cabin comes together as a team and there is not much angst or homesickness -- mostly a lot of sports!

Weeks, Sarah ***AS SIMPLE AS IT SEEMS***

181p. HarperCollins 2010 \$15.99 ISBN 978-0-06-084663-3

The summer after 5th grade, Verbena learns that her Aunt and Uncle are her real parents, and her Aunt drank while pregnant which is the cause of Verbie's learning disabilities. This information sends her on a mean spree, where she can't stop picking on her mother. Temporary new neighbors, Pooch & his mother, give Verbie something to do during the summer. Pooch is convinced Verbie is a ghost, so she plays along. Things are wrapped up by the end of the book, hard to believe for adults, but comforting for children. The issue of fetal alcohol syndrome deserves attention and Weeks has done well with it.

Wells, Rosemary ***MY HAVANA: Memories of a Cuban Boyhood*** ✓

Illus. by Peter Ferguson 65p. Candlewick Press 2010 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-7636-4305-8

A fictionalized account of the memories of Secundino Fernandez, now an architect in New York. As a child he loved the buildings of Havana and often stopped to sketch them. In 1954, at age 6, he and his parents travel to Spain to help his father's older brother after a fall from a roof. They are there for two years before they return to Havana. He is now 8 and must learn to eliminate the "th" sound (instead of "es") he picked up in Spain. In 1959 they leave Cuba for New York to join other family members, it is no longer safe for them in Cuba. Secundino has another adjustment to make, and English to learn. He finds a way to handle his homesickness by designing a three dimensional paper replica of Havana.

Yohalem, Eve ***ESCAPE UNDER THE FOREVER SKY***

218p. Chronicle Books 2009 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-8118-6653-8

Lucy (13) has lived in many places around the world, due to her parents' jobs. Right now her father is in Indonesia and her mother is the American Ambassador to Ethiopia, so she is living in the protected American compound in Addis Ababa. It feels like prison to her and she wonders if she will ever see the real Ethiopia. She finds a way to go with her friend, Tana, to their favorite restaurant, and she soon finds herself kidnapped. Her escape from the kidnappers and her trek through a wild part of Africa will intrigue readers. Included is an incident of lions protecting Lucy from the kidnappers (a fictionalization of a true occurrence in 2005)

Nonfiction for Grades 2-5 (or so)

Glaser, Linda ***EMMA'S POEM: The Voice of the Statue of Liberty*** ✓

Illus. by Claire A. Nivola unp. Houghton Mifflin 22010 \$17.00 ISBN 978-0-547-17184-5

A picture book look at the life of Emma Lazarus and how she came to write the poem we all know so well -- "Give me your tired, your poor...." She was born to wealth, but after a visit to Ward's Island where she first encountered the poor, struggling immigrants hoping for a better life, she began to help by teaching English to them and writing about their lives. She was one of a number of writers (including Mark Twain) asked to write something that would be sold to help pay for the pedestal for the Statue of Liberty. The end of her poem stays with us today.

Lankford, Mary D. ***MAZES AROUND THE WORLD***

Illus. by Karen Dugan 31p. Collins 2008 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-688-16519-2

A two-page spread on each type of maze included in the book, with one page of text and the other page an illustration. Good basic information on possible reasons they were created and any legends that may accompany them. Likely to arouse curiosity for more information.

Morley, Jacqueline ***YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO EXPLORE WITH MARCO POLO!***

Illus. by David Antram 32p. Franklin Watts 2010 \$29.00 (PLB) ISBN 978-0-531-21327-8; \$9.95 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-531-20518-1

The series continues with this title (and others). A trip with Marco Polo fits this summer's theme perfectly, but it's "A Really Long Trip You Would Rather Not Take." Good information is interspersed with humor and comical illustrations.



Fiction for Younger Teens

Cushman, Karen *ALCHEMY AND MEGGY SWANN*

159p. Clarion Books 2010 \$16.00 ISBN 978-0-547-23184-6

In the same vein as *Catherine, Called Birdy*, *The Midwife's Apprentice* and *Matilda Bone*; this title is as enjoyable. Meggy, unable to walk without her two sticks, has been sent to London to live with her father, an alchemist, and someone she knew nothing about. He was expecting a boy and is quite disappointed with Meggy. London is very different from her former home of village and countryside, but she is trying to fit in and find her place.

Falls, Kat *DARK LIFE*

297p. Scholastic 2010 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-545-17814-3

Ty (15), as the first child born in the settlement under the ocean, is most at home in the sea. Topsiders (those who live on land) are an irritation to him, at best. Times are hard as the Seablite Gang regularly attacks and pillages the government supply ships headed for the settlement. Then he accidentally encounters Gemma (also 15) who is looking for her brother, and Ty has to help. Lots of action (*BookList* favorably compared it to a western) makes the story move quickly, and Ty is a son to be proud of.

Gonzalez, Christine Diaz *THE RED UMBRELLA* ✓

284p. Alfred A. Knopf 2010 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-375-86190-1

Beginning in May of 1962 we join Lucía (14) and her 7 year old brother, Frankie, on the beach in Cuba. A convoy of soldiers passes them and Lucía is stunned. Castro is taking over the government. Her parents do not agree with the politics and actions, but try not to be noticed. They finally decide to send their children to the U.S. without them. Lucía and Frankie are fortunate that they go together to a foster home in Grand Island, NE. Adjusting to life on the plains, dealing with high school issues, and worrying about their parents is a lot to handle.

Jinks, Catherine *LIVING HELL*

256p. Harcourt 2010 \$17.00 ISBN 978-0-15-206193-7

The only life Cheney (17) has known is traveling through space in Plexus, the ship that the passengers and crew hope will take them all to a new, habitable planet. But now the ship that provided all they need has passed through a radiation wave. It is becoming organic, and is treating the passengers and scientists like parasites. A battle for survival with scientific facts thrown in, this should appeal to reluctant readers.

Kehret, Peg ***RUNAWAY TWIN***

197p. Dutton 2009 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-525-42177-1

A lot of the story takes place in Nebraska, although not many towns are named. (Alliance is!) Sunny, 13, has been in foster care since her mother and grandmother died in a car accident when she and her twin, Starr, were three. The twins were separated and Sunny went through two relatives before ending up in Nebraska. She has been in several foster homes, always hoping someday to reunite with her sister. When she finds some cash on a trail she first tries to find the owner, and then runs away using the money to finance her trip to find her sister. A rescued dog, boys playing a trick, and a tornado make the trip harder. A strong determined girl who always tries to do the right thing and is unwilling to give up on her dream, though it may not turn out as she wishes.

Kephart, Beth ***THE HEART IS NOT A SIZE***

244p. HarperCollins 2010 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-06-147048-6

Georgia talks her best friend, Riley, into joining a service group during the summer before their senior year in high school. They will help build a bathroom for the poor community of Anapra, outside Juarez, Mexico. It is hot, hard, dirty work, but they have time for fun in the evening. During this trip Georgia finally says something to Riley about her obvious (to Georgia) anorexia, ruining their friendship. This is another lyrical book with a slow pace, not for every reader.

Korman, Gordon ***SCHOOLED***

224p. Hyperion 2008 \$ ISBN 978-1-423105169

Cap (Capricorn) Anderson has lived his entire life on the commune with his grandmother (everyone else left years ago). When she falls and breaks a hip, Cap must go to a foster home and to Claverage Middle School. He is in his element on the commune, but knows nothing about life in our world. He approaches middle school with curiosity and eagerness. Zack Powers sees a victim and is determined to squash him, but Cap doesn't play by the rules. He doesn't know them. Humor and heart.

Larson, Kirby ***THE FENCES BETWEEN US: The Diary of Piper Davis*** ✓

313p. Scholastic 2010 \$12.99 ISBN 978-0-545-22418-5

(Dear America series) Piper (13 then 14) is upset when her brother joins the Navy just after high school graduation in June of 1941. Her father is a pastor for a Japanese Baptist church. Her brother survives Pearl Harbor and is assigned to another battleship. At home, local sentiments begin to go bad for the Japanese people she has known all her life. When most of his congregation is sent to an internment camp, Piper's father has them both follow and serve them in Idaho. Well-written, giving a sense of the fear for those in danger, and a feeling of empathy for those incarcerated for their heritage.

Myers, Edward ***FAR FROM GRINGO LAND***

229p. Clarion Books 2009 \$17.00 ISBN 978-0-547-05630-2

Rick (17) travels from his home in Colorado to spend the summer living with some family friends, the Romeros, in Santo Domingo, Mexico. He is there to improve his Spanish and help them build a new house. He has a little culture shock and some discomfort at first with the family, he hasn't seen them for ten years. The work is back-breaking, but he is determined to work as hard as his hosts. A look at another culture through the eyes of an American teen. A novel based on the author's own experiences

Ostow, Micol & Noah Harlan ***UP OVER DOWN UNDER*** ✓

206p. Penguin c2010 \$9.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-14-241056-1

(Students Across the Seven Seas series-S.A.S.S.)

A semester long student exchange is just what Eliza (16) wants. A chance to experience life away from the public eye. Her father is the assistant administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and she must be careful what she says and does. Melbourne, Australia, sounds great! Belinda (Billie) is eager to get to Washington, D.C. and help Eliza's father with his job. She is an active environmentalist in Australia and is certain there is plenty to learn in Washington. Both girls have idealized expectations and must find a way to temper what they want with what is expected of them. (I thought Eliza was a little TOO irresponsible) but all in all will be a fun read.

Park, Linda Sue ***A LONG WALK TO WATER*** ✓

120p. Clarion Books 2010 \$16.00 ISBN 978-0-547-25127-1

Two stories in two different decades. Nya is 11 in 2008-2009 and it is her job to walk for water for the family twice a day. The first trip takes her all morning and the second takes her all afternoon. Salva's story begins in 1985, he is 11 at the beginning of the book when the war comes to his village. The teacher tells the boys to run into the bush and not to go home. Salva soon becomes one of the Lost Boys of Sudan. How these stories converge may surprise readers. Based on a true story

Paterson, Katherine ***THE DAY OF THE PELICAN***

139p. Clarion Books 2009 \$16.00 ISBN 978-0-547-18188-2

Almost 12, Meli Lleshi and her family soon find they must flee Kosovo and things are not much safer for them on her uncle's farm, due to the escalating violence from Serbians in 1998. The loss of all they own, the hardships in the refugee camp, and the hope when the family comes to America to settle in Vermont is well-told by a skilled author. An author's note at the back of the book gives more information on the history of Kosovo and its situation now.

Perkins, Lynne Rae ***AS EASY AS FALLING OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH***

352p. Greenwillow Books 2010 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-06-187090-3

Ry (16) is on his way to a summer program when he opens a letter and learns it has been canceled. He gets off the train in Montana to try his cell phone, and it leaves without him. The one bright light in his predicament is he meets Del, who is kind and helpful – so helpful he decides to drive Ry back to his home in Wisconsin. A series of misadventures ensues. Unusual, compelling (will Ry find his parents, grandpa, and dogs?) with interesting characters.

Stone, Mary Hanlon ***INVISIBLE GIRL***

279p. Philomel Books 2010 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-399-25249-5

Her abusive, alcoholic mother and passive father have made Stephanie's (14) life an unpredictable mess. Now her mother has abandoned them and Stephanie is sent from Boston to L.A. to stay with a friend of her father's family for the summer. Stephanie tries to fit in with Annie's crowd, but ends up lying to cover up her real past. When her lies are revealed, she is ignored by the group – now invisible. Stephanie's struggles to find her place are heartfelt and ring true. She still loves her mother – remembering loving moments, but also remembers terrible moments. A look at a girl working on finding herself and finding the inner resolve she needs to deal with the world.

Nonfiction for Teens

Locricchio, Matthew *THE 2ND INTERNATIONAL COOKBOOK FOR KIDS* ✓

176p. Marshall Cavendish 2008 \$18.99 ISBN 978-0-7614-5513-4

Spiral bound, this title offers a variety of recipes from four countries: Brazil, Greece, India, and Thailand. It opens with a two-page spread of safety concerns. The recipes cover appetizers, soups, main dishes, vegetables, noodles and rice, and desserts. Some require more expertise than others, but the author does recommend having an adult as the assistant chef. (The information on the book recommends this title for ages 12 and up, not sure why they called it “for kids.”) Includes a section at the back on cooking terms and equipment, and an index. This is a good addition to your collection.

Fiction for Older Teens

Baratz-Logsted, Lauren *THE EDUCATION OF BET*

186p. Houghton Mifflin 2010 \$16.00 ISBN 978-0-547-22308-7

England in the 1800s. Bet (16), illegitimate daughter of a maid, lives with her mother’s employer (after her mother’s death), wealthy Paul Gardner, and his grandson Will. Bet and Will grew up as friends, and now Bet, desperate for an education, convinces Will to allow her to attend his new school: as Will. Will goes off to join the army, his own lifelong dream. Bet tried to prepare for everything, but she didn’t expect bullies, contact sports, or dances. She had been so protected she had never seen a cow until the trip to the school. Girl dressed as boy is not new, but this is an entertaining story and Bet is a wonderful character.

Hiatt, Shelby *PANAMA: A Novel* ✓

250p. Houghton Mifflin 2009 \$16.00 ISBN 978-0-547-19600-8

Living in Dayton, Ohio, next door to the Wright Brothers makes an interesting life for the female main character (no name ever given). When she is 15, in 1910, she and her parents move to Panama, her father has been asked to help build the canal. They will be there 3 years. During this time, the girl sees the differences between those in charge, like her father, and the laborers and local people. She finds a man to love, and who loves her. She becomes skilled at lying to her parents so she can spend time with Frederico. She does visit the local madam to learn about birth control after the first time she and Frederico sleep together. Information about the construction of the canal, the treatment of the workers and the indigenous people is fascinating.

McDonald, Abby *SOPHOMORE SWITCH*

297p. Candlewick Press 2009 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-7636-3936-5

Last-minute exchange students, college sophomores Natasha (headed to Oxford) and Emily (headed to UC at Santa Barbara) have a lot of adjusting to do. Tasha is escaping the repercussions of her ill-advised "hot-tub incident" and hopes England is far enough away. Emily is leaving behind the pain of losing her boyfriend, who says she is a control freak.

Perkins, Stephanie *ANNA AND THE FRENCH KISS* ✓

372p. Dutton Books 2010 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-525-42327-0

Anna's popular-novelist father decides she should spend her senior year of high school at a boarding school in Paris instead of Atlanta, Georgia. She is lost at first, everything from ordering breakfast (in French!) to her first year French class is new; but she finds some friends quickly and slowly begins to find her place. A look at life in a different, new place, some humor, heartache and some romance.

✓ means the title was added to the list since NLA/NEMA conference



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