



Kids' favorite books picked by kids themselves

a listing with information about each book

Children's Choices for 2000

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 school children 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 2000 list is the 26th 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 supervisors, parents, college/university faculty, and others who are

dedicated to improving reading instruction and promoting literacy worldwide. CBC is a nonprofit organization encouraging the use and enjoyment of books and related literacy materials for young people. Its members are U.S. publishers and packagers of trade books for children and young adults, and producers of book-related materials for children.

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" (1973-74). 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 700 books were evaluated by children for Children's Choices for 2000. The books to be tested were se-

lected by publishers from the books they published in 1999 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 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 100 titles for 2000 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 readers (ages 5-6)
- Young readers (ages 6-8)
- Intermediate readers (ages 8-10)
- Advanced readers (ages 10-13)

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 intermediate and 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 2000; they are subject to change without notice. These abbreviations are provided for easy reference:

- Ill. by illustrator of the book
- Pb. a paperback book
- ISBN The International Standard Book Number that 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
- pp. page count
- 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 Readers

A B C Pop

Rachel Isadora. Ill. by the author.
Each letter is paired with a pop art illustration of common things in children's lives. Children will respond to the actions and sounds each illustration evokes. (Team 1)

Viking, a division of Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers. 32 pp. ISBN 0-670-88329-8 (trade). US\$15.99. CAN\$22.99.

Arf! Beg! Catch! Dogs from A to Z

Henry Horenstein. Ill. by the author.
Learning the alphabet has never been more fun than with this delightful ABC book. Wonderful photographs of dogs portray actions for each alphabet letter. Children enjoy predicting what the dogs will do next. (Team 4)

Cartwheel/Scholastic. 40 pp. ISBN 0-590-03380-8 (trade). US\$12.95.

A Beasty Story

Bill Martin Jr. Ill. Steven Kellogg.
Words printed in color, mice that rhyme, and a mysterious beast. All this and more in a delightful collaboration that keeps readers searching the entire page for clues to the identity of the beast. (Team 4)

Silver Whistle/Harcourt. 40 pp. ISBN 0-15-201683-X (trade). US\$16.00. CAN\$24.00.

The Bug in Teacher's Coffee and Other School Poems

Kalli Dakos. Ill. Mike Reed.
These short and entertaining poems provide a new view of what goes on at



Illustration ©1999 by Jill Pinkwater from *Ice Cream Larry* by Daniel Pinkwater. Courtesy of Marshall Cavendish Corp.

school. Children relate to the realistic and colorful illustrations. A delightful book enjoyed by all. (Team 4)

HarperCollins. 48 pp. ISBN 0-06-027940-0 (library). US\$14.89. ISBN 0-06-027939-7 (trade). US\$14.95. CAN\$19.95.

Caterpillar's Wish

Mary Murphy. Ill. by the author.

A caterpillar dreams of flying like her bee and ladybug friends. One day she metamorphoses into a beautiful butterfly and flies away. A wonderful pattern book for emergent readers who dream of growing up to be something special and beautiful. (Team 2)

Dorling Kindersley. 24 pp. ISBN 0-7894-2593-9 (trade). US\$9.95. Pb., ISBN 0-7894-5745-8. US\$5.95.

David Goes to School

David Shannon. Ill. by the author.

David's back! He's in school. This rambunctious boy continues to burrow his way into your heart. A book beginning readers will return to again and again. (Team 4)

Blue Sky Press. 32 pp. ISBN 0-590-48087-1 (trade). US\$14.95. CAN\$21.99.

Everything to Spend the Night From A to Z

Ann Whitford Paul. Ill. Maggie Smith.

Rhyming text tells the story of a young girl who goes to spend the night with Grandpa. Each packed item is revealed in alphabetical order. Only after everything is unpacked does she realize that one very important item was forgotten. (Team 3)

DK Ink. 40 pp. ISBN 0-7894-2511-4 (trade). US\$15.95.

Good Night: A Pop-up Lullaby

Jan Pienkowski. Ill. by the author.

The animals on the stairs, in the bathroom, and in the bedroom just might delay bedtime. The rhymes and repetition of beginning sounds invite young children to join in the reading. Animals pop up or are discovered by lifting a flap. (Team 1)

Candlewick. 12 pp. ISBN 0-7636-0763-0 (trade). US\$14.99. CAN\$20.99.

I Hate to Go to Bed

Katie Davis. Ill. by the author.

This young girl is sure that she will miss exciting things because she has to go to bed. She devises a variety of clever ways to try to stay up just a bit



Illustration by Adrian Johnson from *What! Cried Granny: An Almost Bedtime Story* by Kate Lum. Reprinted by permission of Dial Books for Young Readers, a division of Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers.

longer. The illustrations add lots of funny details. (Team 1)

Harcourt. 36 pp. ISBN 0-15-201920-0 (trade). US\$14.00. CAN\$21.00.

Ice Cream Larry

Daniel Pinkwater. Ill. Jill Pinkwater.

A humorous story of a polar bear named Larry who likes to stay in freezers and eat ice cream. He becomes famous with his invention of the Larry Bar and receives his own freezer and 50 Larry Bars each day. (Team 3)

Marshall Cavendish. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7614-5043-2 (trade). US\$15.95.

Monster Math

Anne Miranda. Ill. Polly Powell.

A great counting concept book. One little monster waits for the first birthday guest to arrive. More monsters arrive until Mom decides that enough

is enough. One little monster remains at the end of the best birthday party ever. (Team 5)

Harcourt. 32 pp. ISBN 0-15-201835-2 (trade). US\$16.00. CAN\$24.00.

My Monster Mama Loves Me So

Laura Leuck. Ill. Mark Buehner.

A tender and funny monster bedtime story. Children will ask for tickles and monster hugs as they rejoice in finding out about the wonderful things monster mom does to show her love. (Team 5)

HarperCollins/Lothrop. 24 pp. ISBN 0-688-16867-1 (library) US\$15.93. ISBN 0-688-16866-3 (trade). US\$15.95. CAN\$23.95. Pb., Harper-Trophy, F.

Quiet, Wyatt!

Bill Maynard. Ill. Frank Remkiewicz.

Wyatt gives a voice to preschoolers who are tired of being dismissed. No

matter what he wants to do, he's told to hush, until he saves a puppy by speaking out. This one is for disenfranchised preschoolers everywhere. (Team 2)

Putnam, a division of Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers. 32 pp. ISBN 0-399-23217-6 (trade). US\$15.99. CAN\$22.99.

Sneaky Salamanders

Suzanne Paul Dell'Oro with Andrés Varela-Paul. Ill. with photographs by John Netherton.

This nonfiction book depicts various salamanders in their natural habitat along with close-up photographs of where and how they live in the animal world. Salamanders must always be sneaky to stay alive. (Team 3)

Lerner. 32 pp. ISBN 0-8225-3612-9 (library). US\$21.27. Pb., First Avenue Editions, an imprint of Lerner Publishing Group. ISBN 0-8225-3618-8. US\$6.95.

Trick or Treat Countdown

Patricia Hubbard. Ill. Michael Letzig.

Ghosts, goblins, monsters, and other make-believe creatures gather to gleam and scream, glide and hide on Halloween night. Young children will enjoy counting each set of creatures as they arrive and then counting backwards as they leave. (Team 1)

Holiday House. 32 pp. ISBN 0-8234-1367-5 (trade). US\$15.95.

We Share Everything

Robert Munsch. Ill. Michael Martchenko. *Jeremiah and Amanda quarrel over toys in their kindergarten class. The "angelic" teacher tells them, "This is Kindergarten. We share everything." When Jeremiah and Amanda take their teacher's advice, the whole class is in for a big surprise! (Team 3)*

Cartwheel, an imprint of Scholastic. ISBN 0-590-89600-8 (trade). US\$11.95. Pb., Scholastic. ISBN 0-590-89601-6. US\$4.99.

What! Cried Granny: An Almost Bedtime Story

Kate Lum. Ill. Adrian Johnson.

Do you hate to go to bed? Patrick invents new ways to delay bedtime when visiting his grandmother—hence the title. (Team 4).

Dial, a division of Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers. 32 pp. ISBN 0-8037-2382-2 (trade). US\$15.99. CAN\$24.99.

Whooo's Haunting the Teeny Tiny Ghost?

Kay Winters. Ill. Lynn Munsinger.

Teeny Tiny Ghost must practice being brave as he faces the schoolyard slide. His bravery is tested even more when he arrives home. Children will delight in the rhythm and the hauntingly inviting illustrations of this great Halloween read-aloud. (Team 5)

HarperCollins. 32 pp. ISBN 0-06-027359-3 (library). US\$14.89. ISBN 0-06-027358-5 (trade). US\$14.95. CAN\$19.95. Pb., HarperTrophy, F.

Yum! A Preston Pig Story

Colin McNaughton. Ill. by the author.

Readers will be amazed by the way Preston tries to get Mr. Wolf's mind off eating him. Colorful illustrations and witty words show readers how Preston's suggestions find Mr. Wolf dreaming up new ways to eat pigs. (Team 5)

Harcourt. 32 pp. ISBN 0-15-202064-0 (trade). US\$15.00. CAN\$20.99.

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 book stores 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.

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Young Readers

A B C Animal Riddles

Susan Joyce. Ill. Doug DuBosque.

Do you want some new information about animals? Solve these cleverly written riddles and discover some interesting facts about the animal kingdom. (Team 4)

Peel. 32 pp. ISBN 0-939217-51-1 (trade). US\$13.95.

The Ant Bully

John Nickle. Ill. by the author.

Lucas is bullied by Sid. Unable to strike back, Lucas attacks ants with his squirt gun, but learns a lesson when he is shrunk, forced into the ant colony, tried for his crime, and sentenced to hard labor. An invaluable lesson about bullies and the world of insects. (Team 5)

Scholastic Press. 32 pp. ISBN 0-590-39591-2 (trade). US\$14.95.

Bad Habits!

Babette Cole. Ill. by the author.

For all the readers who have ever yelled, screamed, spat, or burped, Lucretzia Crum is their anti-hero. But never fear...her mad scientist father and mother have inventions designed to reform their uncivilized daughter. (Team 2)

Dial, a division of Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers. 32 pp. ISBN 0-8037-2432-2 (trade). US\$14.99. CAN\$21.75.

The Best Place

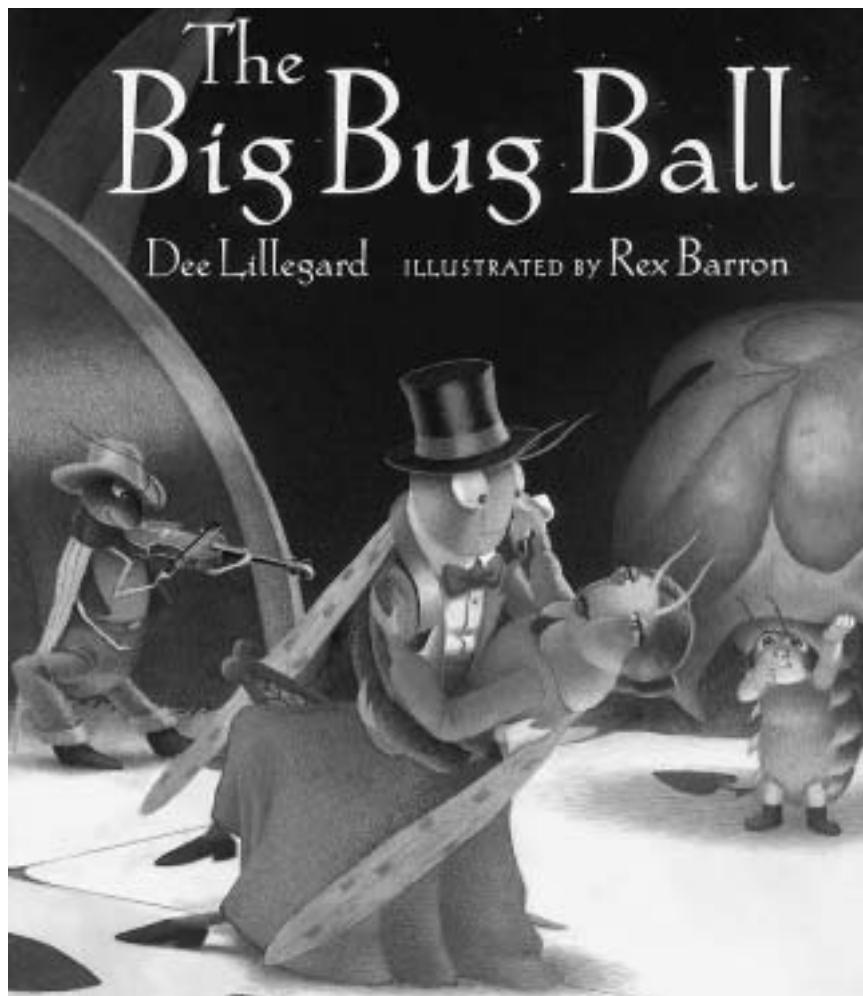
Susan Meddaugh. Ill. by the author.

The old wolf questions his happiness after the bird taunts him because he's never traveled. After searching the world, he realizes his place was best. His old homestead is occupied, so he finds a new house for entertaining friends. (Team 2)

Walter Lorraine Books, an imprint of Houghton Mifflin. 32 pp. ISBN 0-395-97994-3 (trade). US\$15.00.

The Big Bug Ball

Dee Lillegard. Ill. Rex Barron.



Jacket illustration ©1999 by Rex Barron from *The Big Bug Ball* by Dee Lillegard. Reprinted by permission of Putnam, a division of Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers.

Lively rhyming text and colorful illustrations tell a charming story of insects hosting a ball. Even little sow bug overcomes her fear of trying something new through the encouragement of friends. (Team 3)

Putnam, a division of Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers. 32 pp. ISBN 0-399-23121-8 (trade). US\$15.99. CAN\$22.99.

Clara Ann Cookie

Harriet Ziefert. Ill. Emily Bolam.

Poor Clara Ann Cookie doesn't like to get dressed in the mornings. Her mother doesn't fuss, but uses a "face-making" game to ingeniously get her dressed. Children will enjoy the simple illustrations and rhyming text. (Team 3)

Walter Lorraine Books, an imprint of Houghton Mifflin. 32 pp. ISBN 0-395-92324-7 (trade). US\$15.00.

Clarice Bean, That's Me

Lauren Child. Ill. by the author.

Clarice Bean shares a room with her younger brother. She'd rather have her own room like her older brother and sister. The text is written over the colorful illustrations, not in the usual box format. (Team 3)

Candlewick. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7636-0961-7 (trade). US\$16.99. CAN\$22.99.

Cosmo Zooms

Arthur Howard. Ill. by the author.

Cosmo offers hope for all children searching for their gifts and talents.

Hamburger Heaven



Wong Herbert Yee

Jacket illustration ©1999 from **Hamburger Heaven** written and illustrated by Wong Herbert Yee. Reprinted by permission of Houghton Mifflin Co.

All the dogs in town are talented, except Cosmo, until he naps on a skateboard. This is a good thematic connection for titles like *Leo the Late Bloomer*. (Team 2)

Harcourt Brace Children's Books. 32 pp. ISBN 0-15-201788-7 (trade). US\$15.00. CAN\$22.00.

Duckling Days

Karen Wallace. Ill. with photographs.

Readers will learn about how Mother Duck makes a nest, lays eggs, and cares for her newly hatched ducklings. Full color, close-up photographs show interesting details of the ducklings and their habitat. (Team 1)

Dorling Kindersley. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7894-3995-6 (trade). US\$12.95. Pb., ISBN 0-7894-3994-8. US\$3.95.

Farmer Brown Goes Round and Round

Teri Sloat. Ill. Nadine Bernard Wescott.

When a tornado twists up all of Farmer Brown's animals, he learns how to milk pigs, give his dogs some oats, and check the sheep's nest for eggs. The next tornado puts everything back in order—well, almost everything! (Team 1)

DK Ink. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7894-2512-2 (trade). US\$15.95.

Franklin's Class Trip

Paulette Bourgeois. Ill. Brenda Clark.

Franklin is at it again! His excitement about his class trip to the museum turns to fear after a discussion

with a classmate. What could be so scary at a museum? (Team 4)

Scholastic. 32 pp. Pb., ISBN 0-590-13002-1. US\$4.50.

Froggy Plays Soccer

Johnathan London. Ill. Frank Remkiewicz.

Froggy is playing in the Wild Things City Cup, but he can't concentrate, and he almost loses the game for the dream team. The book is filled with soccer action and humor. Froggy makes a ggooooooal! for the readers. (Team 2)

Viking, a division of Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers. 32 pp. ISBN 0-670-88257-7 (trade). US\$15.99. CAN\$22.99.

Gigantic! How Big Were the Dinosaurs?

Patrick O'Brien. Ill. by the author.

We all know that dinosaurs were big, but how big? Wonderful comparisons are made to modern day objects helping readers to visualize the true size of these creatures. Good, simple explanations, accompanied by vivid, engaging illustrations, describe each dinosaur. (Team 5)

Henry Holt. 32 pp. ISBN 0-8050-5738-2 (trade). US\$15.95. CAN\$23.95.

Good Job, Little Bear

Martin Waddell. Ill. Barbara Firth.

Little Bear jumps off rocks, falls from trees, and slips into the stream, and Big Bear's helping hand is always there for him. This is a great book about the importance of a loving parent or adult. (Team 2)

Candlewick. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7636-0736-3 (trade). US\$15.99. CAN\$21.99.

Hamburger Heaven

Wong Herbert Yee. Ill. by the author.

Fast-paced and rhyming text tells how Pinky Pig wants a new clarinet, but is in danger of losing her job and thus her income. "Spicing up" the menu at Hamburger Heaven helps her achieve her goal. (Team 3)

Houghton Mifflin. 32 pp. ISBN 0-395-87548-X (trade). US\$15.00. Pb., HarperTrophy, F.

Happy Birthday to You, You Belong in a Zoo

Diane DeGroat. Ill. by the author.

Gilbert, the opossum, is invited to Lewis's birthday party. He chooses a frying pan as a gift. Gilbert has fun but hopes to leave before his present is

opened. But Mom switches the presents, and everyone benefits. (Team 3)

Morrow Junior Books, an imprint of Harper-Collins. 32 pp. ISBN 0-688-16544-3 (trade). US\$15.00. CAN\$22.00. Pb., Harper Trophy, F.

Herb, the Vegetarian Dragon

Jules Bass. Ill. Debbie Harter.

This is a story of standing up for one's values while keeping an open mind. Herb is the only vegetarian dragon in the forest. He must decide if becoming a meat-eating dragon is worth his freedom. (Team 5)

Barefoot. 32 pp. ISBN 1-90223-36-8 (trade). US\$15.95. Pb., F. ISBN 1-84148-127-0. US\$5.99.

Hogula, Dread Pig of Night

Jean Gralley. Ill. by the author.

Do you like scary bedtime stories? Are you afraid of being snorted into a deep, snoring, piggie-snoozie snooze? Hogula and Elvis Ann, Dread Queen of Kissyface, roam the neighborhood making mischief. (Team 4)

Henry Holt. 32 pp. ISBN 0-8050-5700-5 (trade). US\$15.95. CAN\$23.95.

Hooway for Wodney Wat

Helen Lester. Ill. Lynn Munsinger.

Wodney is a wonderful "under-wat" for children who can't pronounce the letter r. He's the shyest student in school until he saves his classmates from the school bully, Camilla. Wodney becomes the class hero... hooway for Wodney! (Team 2)

Walter Lorraine Books, an imprint of Houghton Mifflin. 32 pp. 0-395-92392-1 (trade). US\$15.00.

I Want a Pet

Lauren Child. Ill. by the author.

A girl considers lots of pets, but each one has a particularly annoying habit. The pet shop lady shows her a pet without any bad habits—yet! Readers can imagine what will happen when the little girl's pet finally hatches. (Team 1)

Tricycle Press. 24 pp. ISBN 1-883672-82-1 (trade). US\$13.95. CAN\$21.95.

If You Hopped Like a Frog

David M. Schwartz. Ill. James Warhola.

Just imagine what you could do if you had the abilities of some animals. You could carry a car, eat over 700 hamburgers a day, or weigh more than two elephants. Children learn about ratios and discover amazing possibilities. (Team 1)

Scholastic Press. 32 pp. ISBN 0-590-09857-8 (trade). US\$15.95. CAN\$22.99.

Impatient Pamela Asks: Why Are My Feet So Huge?

Mary Koski. Ill. Dan Brown.

Pamela looks down at her feet and discovers they are HUGE! While on the soccer field, Pamela thinks of many advantages to having big feet. In the end, it is her huge feet that save the day. (Team 5)

Trellis Publishing. 32 pp. ISBN 0-9663281-2-4 (trade). US\$15.95.

It's My Birthday, Too!

Lynne Jonell. Ill. Petra Mathers.

Christopher doesn't want his little brother spoiling his birthday party like he did last year. In fact, Christopher thinks he'd rather have a puppy than a brother. Robbie's willing to be a puppy if it means he can be at the party. (Team 1)

Putnam, a division of Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers. 32 pp. ISBN 0-399-23323-7 (trade). US\$12.99. CAN\$17.99.

Tips for parents, primary caregivers, and educators (continued)

Primary-grade book activities

- Continue to spend time reading with the child; set aside a specific time and place.
- Be familiar with Children's Choices books and other high-quality children's literature.
- 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

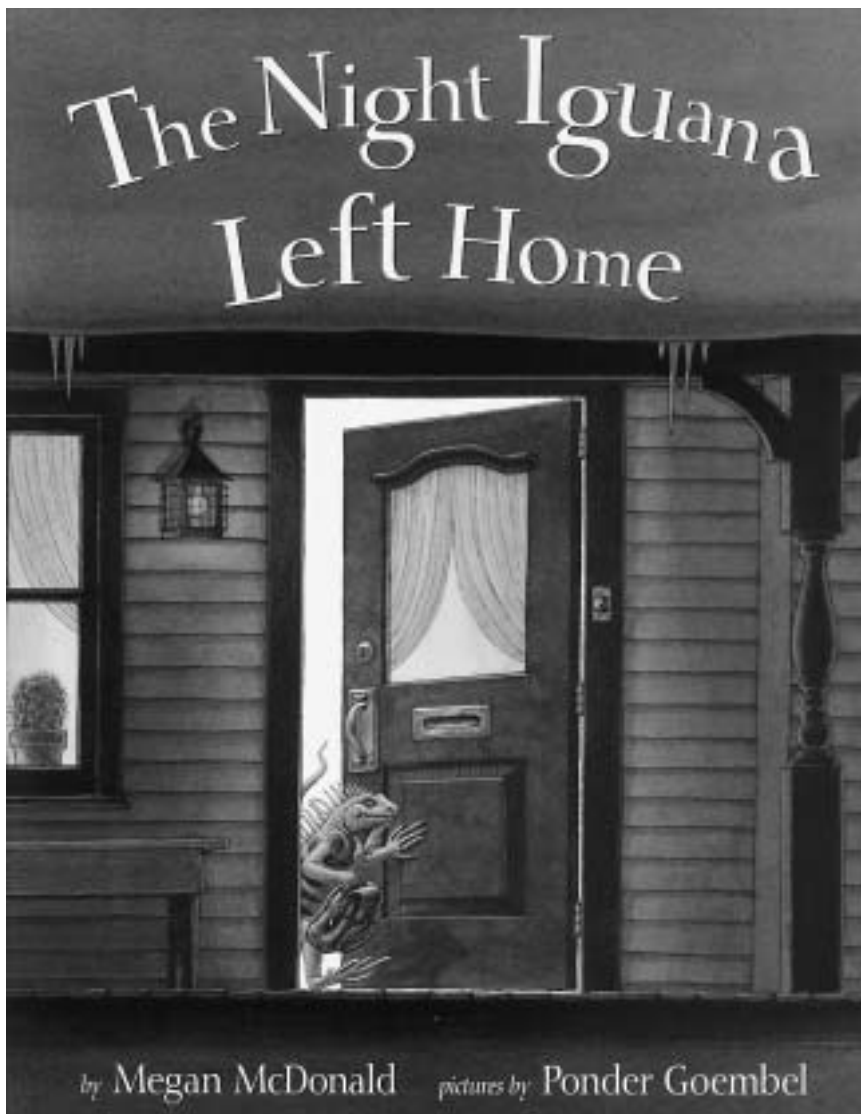
- Challenge readers to compare and contrast books.
- Encourage children to develop an interest in a variety of genres such as biography, historical fiction, and poetry.
- Encourage children to read books related to beginning career and vocational choices.
- Seek a balance between school book activities; 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 Joint Committee

Roseine Church, 1999–2000 IRA Cochair
Susan Hawk, 1999–2000 CBC Cochair



Jacket illustration ©1999 by Ponder Goembel from *The Night Iguana Left Home* by Megan McDonald. Published by DK Inc.

Izzie Lizzie Alligator: A Tale of a Big Lizard (Tate Nature Series)

Suzanne Tate. Ill. by James Melvin.

Mama Alligator teaches her young hatchlings about the dangers of chemical spills and their survival. Who are helpful humans? Mama says they are humans who care about earth's creatures. This is a great science book to teach about pollution and ecology. (Team 2)

Nags Head Art. 28 pp. Pb., ISBN 1-878405-23-3. US\$4.95.

Jake Johnson: The Story of a Mule

Tres Seymour. Ill. Marsha Gray Carrington.

Jake Johnson the new mule sat down and wouldn't get up when Farmer Puckett tried to take his wagon to the town's Independence Day party. This battle of wits will have children laughing at antics used to save the day. (Team 5)

DK Ink. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7894-2563-7 (trade). US\$15.95.

Jumbo's Lullaby

Laura Krauss Melmed. Ill. Henri Sorenson.

A mother elephant soothes her baby into slumber with this tender, poetic lullaby about the dreams of African elephants. Imaginative words and il-

lustrations evoke a feeling of whimsy. (Team 4)

HarperCollins/Lothrop. 24 pp. ISBN 0-688-16996-1 (library). US\$15.89. ISBN 0-688-16550-8 (trade). US\$16.00.

Little Bunny's Sleepless Night

Carol Roth. Ill. Valeri Gorbachev.

Little Bunny feels lonely and can't sleep. While searching for a good friend's company, he is reminded that quills, smells, and snores can be a problem. He realizes how much he likes the peace and quiet of his own home. (Team 1)

North-South Books. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7358-1069-9 (trade). US\$15.95.

The Loudness of Sam

James Proimos. Ill. by the author.

Poor Sam! He just can't be quiet! Sam helps Aunt Tillie understand that people are happier when allowed to express themselves. Children will enjoy Sam's repetitious responses and the author's wonderful wit. (Team 4)

Harcourt. 32 pp. 0-15-202087-X (trade). US\$13.00. CAN\$18.00.

The Magic School Bus Explores the Senses

Joanna Cole. Ill. Bruce Degen.

Assistant principal Mr. Wilde is at the controls of the magic school bus, trying to catch up with Ms. Frizzle. The class explores a police officer's eye, a little boy's ear, a dog's nose, and their beloved teacher's taste buds. (Team 1)

Scholastic. 48 pp. ISBN 0-590-44697-5. US\$15.95. CAN\$19.99.

The Night Iguana Left Home

Megan McDonald. Ill. Ponder Goembel.

Even though she loves living with her friend, Iguana's watery eyes, drooping dewlip, and peeling skin make her long for sunny Florida days. Her travels are filled with challenges, but all's well that ends well in this tale of adventure and friendship. (Team 1)

DK Ink. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7894-2581-5 (trade). US\$15.95.

The Pig Who Ran a Red Light

Paul Brett Johnston. Ill. by the author.

George the pig mimics Gertrude the cow and tries to do everything she does. Ms. Rosemary convinces Gertrude to pretend she's a pig so George will follow. Young readers

who struggle with the word "behave" will smile at this story. (Team 2)

Orchard. 32 pp. ISBN 0-531-33136-9 (library). US\$16.99. ISBN 0-531-30136-2 (trade). US\$15.95.

A Pocketful of Stars: Poems about the Night

Compiled by Nikki Siegen-Smith. Ill. Emma Shaw-Smith.

This book contains 21 poems about the night. Selections include Jane Yolen's "Mermaid's Lullaby" and Carl Sandburg's "Summer Stars." The variety of poems includes scary, exciting, and calming happenings in the night. Colorful illustrations fit every poem. (Team 3)

Barefoot Books. 40 pp. ISBN 1-902283-84-8 (trade). US\$16.95. Little Book edition, F. ISBN 1-84148-397-4. US\$5.99.

The Robotots

Matt Novak. Ill. by the author.

The Robotot family is a little different. No one wants them to live in their neighborhood. The neighbors ask them to leave but while they are visiting the family, they have fun and become friends with the strange Robotots. (Team 3)

DK Ink. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7894-2566-1 (trade). US\$15.95.

Tomatoes From Mars

Arthur Yorinks. Ill. Mort Drucker.

Giant tomatoes are invading the town. No one can stop the red plague except Dr. Shtickle, who resembles Albert Einstein. Shtickle devises a scheme to save the town. Could the solution be in the dressing? (Team 5)

HarperCollins/di Capua. 32 pp. ISBN 0-06-205070-2 (trade). US\$14.95. CAN\$19.95.

Wedding Bells for Rotten Ralph

Jack Gantos. Ill. Nicole Rubel.

Rotten Ralph is at it again. This time his behavior turns a wedding topsyturvy. Readers will delight in the devilish antics. Children will be drawn to the red cat through the bright watercolor art. (Team 5)

HarperCollins. 40 pp. ISBN 0-06-027534-0 (library). US\$14.89. ISBN 0-06-027533-2 (trade). US\$14.95. CAN\$19.95.



Jacket illustration ©1999 by John Stephen Gurney from *A to Z Mysteries: The Haunted Hotel* by Ron Roy. Reproduced by permission of Random House Children's Books, a division of Random House, Inc.

Intermediate Readers

A to Z Mysteries: The Haunted Hotel

Ron Roy. Ill. John Steven Gurney.

Dink, Josh, and Ruth Rose have to spend a night in the Shangri-La Hotel to figure out who is haunting it. Can they discover the culprits before the owners have to sell their hotel? (Team 1)

Random House. 87 pp. Pb., ISBN 0-679-89079-3. US\$3.99. CAN\$5.50.

Derek Jeter: Surefire Shortstop

Bob Schnakenberg. Ill. with photographs.

Biography of this outstanding baseball player who as a young boy in his hometown of Kalamazoo, Michigan told everyone that he would one day

play for the New York Yankees. (Team 3)

Lerner. 64 pp. ISBN 0-8225-3671-4 (library). US\$21.27. Pb., First Avenue Editions, an imprint of Lerner Publications. ISBN 0-8225-9838-8. US\$5.95.

Dive! My Adventures in the Deep Frontier

Sylia A. Earle. Ill. with photographs.

A first-person account of underwater excursions with whales, dolphins, seahorses, and other sea creatures combined with beautiful underwater photographs of the author and animals. Explains about the work of an aquanaut and about deep-sea submersible diving vehicles. (Team 3)

National Geographic Society. 64 pp. ISBN 0-7922-7144-0 (trade). US\$18.95.

882 1/2 Amazing Answers to Your

Questions About the Titanic

Hugh Brewster and Laurie Coulter. Ill. with photographs.

Everything student historians want to know about Titanic is here. Was the curse of an Egyptian mummy on board? Did the Heart of the Ocean really exist? The book is resplendent with photos, diagrams, and paintings. (Team 2)

Scholastic. 96 pp. Pb., ISBN 0-439-04296-8. \$US9.99. CAN\$12.99.

Exploring the Deep, Dark Sea

Gail Gibbons. Ill. by the author.

From the sunlight zone (<450 ft.) to the abyss (13,000 to 20,000 ft.), a submersible travels the oceans with a lively mixed-gender, multiracial crew who collect samples from each level. It is interesting to see what lives beneath the waves. (Team 2)

Little, Brown. 32 pp. ISBN 0-316-30945-1 (trade). US\$14.95. CAN\$19.95.

Fabulous Monsters

Marcia Williams. Ill. by the author.

Words and pictures tell the stories of deadly monsters from the oral traditions of five cultures. The comic book format is packed with action and humorous comments by the characters. (Team 1)

Candlewick. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7636-0791-6 (trade). US\$15.99. CAN\$21.99.

Hank the Cowdog #33: The Case of the Measled Cowboy

John R. Erickson. Ill. Gerald L. Holmes.

More about Children's Choices

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

Cochairing the 1999–2000 IRA/CBC Joint Committee were Roseine Church, Education Consultant, Cheyenne, Wyoming, and Susan Hawk, Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers, New York, New York. Representing IRA on the committee were Nancy M. Davenport, Shari M. Furtwangler, Ruth E. Pace, Joan C. Stevenson, and Deborah L. Thompson; those representing CBC were Kira Glass, Jackie Harper, Philip Lee, David Wexler, and Andrea Wilk. 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: Madison, Wisconsin, consisted of two urban elementary schools, one suburban elementary school, and one urban middle school. Team leader: Margaret Jensen, Huegel School, Madison, Wisconsin. Support team leaders: Barbara Marten, Vicki Woodward, Carrie Valentine, Linda Mertes, Linda Kailin, Mary Connor, and Karen Cook.

Team 2: Mission, Texas, consisted of two suburban elementary schools, one rural elementary school, and one suburban junior high school. Team leader: Marci Mitchell, Mitchell Educational Consulting, Mission, Texas. Support team leaders: Ann Allen, Gloria Lopez, Ernestina Cano, Elida Martinez, Noemi Garza, and Sheree Sieg.

Team 3: Conway, Arkansas, consisted of four suburban elementary schools and one suburban middle school. Team leader: Denise Johnson, University of Central Arkansas, Conway, Arkansas. Support team leaders: Rebecca S. Bagwell, Renee Branton, Sherry Davis, Anja C. Goff, J. Annell Kilman, and Susan Willenbrink.

Team 4: Green River, Wyoming consisted of two rural elementary schools, six small town elementary schools, and 2 small-town middle schools. Team leaders: Ilene Rutten and Joyce Hart, Jackson Elementary School, Green River, Wyoming.

Team 5: Rochester, New York, consisted of eleven suburban elementary schools, two suburban middle schools, and one suburban junior high school. Team leader: Kenneth J. Weiss, Nazareth College of Rochester, Rochester, New York.

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 U.S.; 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 from the Children's Book Council, Attn: Team Leader Information, 12 W. 37th Street, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10018, USA. All applications remain on file for 3 years, at which time CBC will reconfirm your interest. For additional information about this project, visit CBC's Web site at www.CBCBooks.org.

How can I order copies of this list?

Offprints of this annotated 2000 Children's Choices list (publication 9106) are available from the International Reading Association. Single copies are US\$1.00 when you send a self-addressed 9" × 3 1/2" envelope to the attention of Department EG. Single copies of each choices list may also be downloaded as a PDF file at www.reading.org/choices/. To order bulk copies by phone with a credit card, call (in the U.S. and Canada only) 1-800-336-READ, ext. 266, or send your order to Order Department, 800 Barksdale Road, PO Box 8139, Newark, DE 19714-8139, USA. Bulk copies are also available in lots of 10 at bookstore.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 Web site at bookstore.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 Web site at bookstore.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 at the same address. To order bulk copies by phone with a credit card, call (in the United States and Canada only) 1-800-336-READ, ext. 266.

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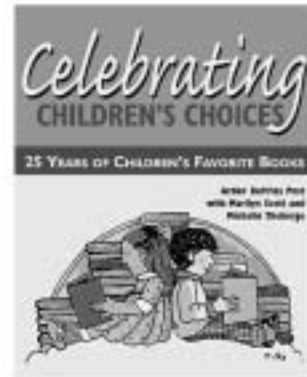
More about Children's Choices (continued)

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/CBC Joint Committee, and Outstanding Science Trade Books for Children, a project of the National Science Teachers Association/CBC Joint Committee. 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 77¢ U.S. postage to CBC, 12 W. 37th Street, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10018, USA; Attn: Social Studies List, or Attn: Science List. Multiple copies are available for a nominal charge. Telephone: 1-212-966-1990.

How can I use these books in my classroom?

The International Reading Association has a new publication full of ideas for making the most of these books.

Celebrating Children's Choices: 25 Years of Children's Favorite Books (2000, ISBN 087207-276-2) 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 1-800-336-READ, ext. 266, or call (from outside North America) 1-302-731-1600, ext. 266. This publication is also available through the Association's online bookstore at bookstore.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. To receive notification of the next Children's Choices cycle, contact CBC at staff@CBCbooks.org or call 212-966-1990.

CBC welcomes publishers, large and small, to join its diverse membership. For membership information, write to CBC, 12 W. 37th Street, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10018, USA.

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

For a complete listing of CBC's activities and publications, visit their Web site at www.CBCBooks.org.

Young readers were captivated by this fun-filled, hilarious adventure. Slim, the ranch hand, is left in charge of Loper's and Sally May's ranch. How did Hank, Drover, and Little Alfred wind up taking care of Slim? (Team 4)

Viking, a division of Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers. 144 pp. ISBN 0-670-88489-8 (trade). US\$13.99. CAN\$19.99. Pb., Puffin. ISBN 0-14-130423-5. US\$4.99.

Hank the Cowdog #31: The Case of the Vanishing Fishhook

John R. Erickson. Ill. Gerald L. Holmes. *Another new Hank adventure! This time he has major "bubble trouble." Find out how Slim, Little Alfred, and Sally May help Hank learn a valuable lesson. (Team 4)*

Viking, a division of Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers. 144 pp. ISBN 0-670-88438-3 (trade). US\$13.99. CAN\$19.99. Pb., Puffin. ISBN 0-14-130356-5. US\$4.99.

Hank the Cowdog #32: The Garbage Monster From Outer Space

John R. Erickson. Ill. Gerald L. Holmes. *Hank gets tired of his ranching life, so he decides to become an outlaw. He runs into Rip and Snort, two of the meanest outlaw coyotes around. Then the trouble begins.... (Team 4)*

Viking, a division of Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers. 144 pp. ISBN 0-670-88488-X (trade). US\$13.99. CAN\$19.99. Pb., Puffin. ISBN 0-14-130422-7. US\$4.99.

Into the Under World

Gillian Clements. Ill. by the author. *You just moved into a new home. In the basement is a trap door that leads to a tunnel into the Under World of*

Trog Dragon. With his help you must find your way through nine mazes filled with fascinating myths, animals, dungeons, and more. (Team 5)

Candlewick. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7636-0686-3. US\$15.99. CAN\$21.99.

Laugh-eteria

Douglas Florian. Ill. by the author. *The rhythms and rhymes of each poem will get children's toes tapping and their funny bones tickling. Fun is found in things from Isaac Newton to school lunches. (Team 1)*

Harcourt. 160 pp. ISBN 0-15-202084-5 (trade). US\$17.00. CAN\$24.00.

National Audubon Society First Field Guide: Reptiles

John L. Behler. Ill. with photographs. *Each reptile is shown in a large color photograph, with a brief paragraph*



Illustration from *Smile If You're Human* written and illustrated by Neal Layton. Reprinted by permission of Dial Books for Young Readers, a division of Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers.

describing features such as pattern, size, habits, and habitats. A map shows the range of each animal and a cautionary note if it might be dangerous. (Team 1)

Scholastic. 160 pp. ISBN 0-590-05467-8 (trade). US\$17.95. CAN\$24.99. Pb., ISBN 0-590-05487-2. US\$11.95.

National Audubon Society First Field Guide: Trees

Brian Cassie. Ill. with photographs.

Children learn about leaves, flowers and fruits, bark, and tree shapes. Each entry offers tips on identifying the tree and information about how it is used. The glossary includes photographs of the 50 state trees. (Team 1)

Scholastic. 160 pp. ISBN 0-590-05472-4 (trade). US\$17.95. CAN\$24.99. Pb., ISBN 0-590-05490-2. US\$11.95.

The Official "M&M's" Brand Book of the Millennium

Larry Dane Brimmer. Ill. Karen Pellaton.

MM are the Roman numerals for 2000. Red and Yellow (from the M&Ms commercials) take readers through a fascinating story about calendars and other methods of keeping time. The book also reports on different cities' plans for celebrating 12/31/99. (Team 5)

Charlesbridge. 32 pp. ISBN 0-88106-071-2 (trade). US\$15.95. CAN\$24.95. Pb., ISBN 0-88106-072-0. US\$6.95.

Quotations for Kids

Compiled and edited by J.A. Senn. Ill. Steve Pica.

Here we have 2,000 quotations to educate and inspire young readers.

Senn quotes athletes, celebrities, historical figures, the Bible, and lots of fictional characters. In alphabetical order, from "accomplishments" to "zoo," this reference tool is a gem. (Team 2)

Millbrook Press. 256 pp. ISBN 0-7613-1296-X (trade). US\$24.95.

Ramona's World

Beverly Cleary. Ill. Alan Tiegreen.

Ramona is back. A 9-year-old determined to make fourth grade the best year of her life, Ramona sets off with her old friends Yard Ape and Howie and her new best friend Daisy to conquer her world. (Team 5)

HarperCollins/Morrow. 192 pp. ISBN 0-688-16816-7 (trade). US\$14.95. CAN\$22.00. ISBN 0-688-16818-3 (library). US\$14.89. Pb., F.

Scholastic Encyclopedia of Space

Jacqueline Mitton and Simon Mitton. Ill. with figures and photographs.

Students can read the brief paragraphs to learn specific information about the stars, the solar system, sky-watching, and space exploration. Stunning photographs and clear diagrams fill each page. (Team 1)

Scholastic Reference. 80 pp. ISBN 0-590-59227-0 (trade). US\$14.95.

Sit on a Potato Pan, Otis! More Palindromes

Jon Agee. Ill. by the author.

This clever book of palindromes challenges the reader's thinking and is accompanied by humorous cartoon-like illustrations. (Team 3)

Farrar, Straus & Giroux. 80 pp. ISBN 0-374-31808-5 (trade). US\$14.41. CAN\$23.32.

Smile If You're Human

Neal Layton. Ill. by the author.

An alien family comes to Earth looking for humans and lands in a zoo! Are the zoo animals the humans? The original storyline and amusing illustrations captivate readers. (Team 4)

Dial, a division of Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers. 32 pp. ISBN 0-399-23217-6 (trade). US\$14.99.

Tarzan

Retold by Robert D. San Souci. Ill. Michael McCurdy.

The vivid scratchboard paintings created by illustrator Michael McCurdy enhance this timeless retelling of the Tarzan story. Readers experience

Tarzan's adventure in becoming King of the Apes. (Team 3)

Hyperion Books for Children. 32 pp. ISBN 0-7868-2334-8 (library). US\$15.49. ISBN 0-7868-0384-3 (trade) US\$15.99. CAN\$21.99.

A Visit From Grandfather Abacus (Publish-a-Book series)

Keely Hoffman. Ill. Ken Bowser.

Grandfather Abacus scoffs at the technology that little Laptop shares with him. However, after two technicians use the Internet to find a replacement for Grandfather's broken bead, he begins to appreciate the wonders of technology. (Team 1)

Raintree Steck-Vaughn. 32 pp. Pb., ISBN 0-7398-0051-5. US\$8.50.

Z Is for Zombie

Merrily Kutner. Ill. John Manders.

From alien to zombie, this scary ABC picture book is guaranteed to spark your imagination. It is written in delightful verse. (Team 4)

Albert Whitman. 32 pp. ISBN 0-8075-9490-3 (library). US\$15.95.

Advanced Readers

Alida's Song

Gary Paulsen.

A teenaged boy lives a life of quiet desperation, struggling in school, working odd jobs and avoiding his alcoholic parents. His grandmother and two farmers help him see himself and those around him in a more humane light. (Team 5)

Delacorte. 128 pp. ISBN 0-385-32586-X (trade). US\$15.95. CAN\$24.95.

Alien Astronauts

Gary L. Blackwood. Ill. with photographs.

This is a spooky, engaging, frightening collage of facts and truly fascinating information about paranormal events. Humanity's fascination with the unknown is taken to new heights in this engaging book for the believer and the nonbeliever. (Team 5)

Marshall Cavendish/Benchmark Books. 80 pp. ISBN 0-7614-0469-4 (library). US\$19.95.

Altered Voices: Nine Science Fiction Stories

Compiled by Lucy Sussex.

Sci-fi fans will be transported to the past and future, to deep space and suburbia. The characters include genetically enhanced humans, sea creatures, fairies, and ghosts. If you want to laugh or cry, dream or scream, get this one. (Team 2)

Scholastic. 176 pp. Pb., ISBN 0-590-60365-5. US\$4.99. CAN\$6.99.

Astronauts: Training for Space

Michael D. Cole. Ill. with photographs.

This book gives budding astronauts and scientists an overview of the space program from its beginnings (Sputnik) to the race to the Moon and space stations of the future. It's a super book for content reading in the sciences. (Team 2)

Enslow. 48 pp. ISBN 0-7660-1116-X (library). US\$18.95.

Brian's Return

Gary Paulsen.

What if you had been trapped in an unknown wilderness? Would you ever go back? Brian begins to long for the forest, and a trip is arranged. Can Brian still survive? (Team 4)

Delacorte. 115 pp. ISBN 0-385-32500-2 (trade). US\$15.95. CAN\$24.95.

Creating and Publishing Web Pages on the Internet

Art Wolinsky. Ill. with line drawings and photographs.

This is a terrific "how-to" book for Web publishing, with instructions for even the technophobic. The rate of publishing on the Internet is exploding, and this is a good teaching tool for students who love the Web. (Team 2)

Enslow. 64 pp. ISBN 0-7660-1262-X (library). US\$16.95.

Deep Space Astronomy

Gregory Vogt. Ill. with photographs.

A wonderful guide to outer space. Readers are helped to visualize the great number of space objects in our universe. Vivid color photographs from telescopes and satellites help to draw the reader into this fascinating world. (Team 5)

Millbrook Press. 80 pp. ISBN 0-7613-1369-9 (library). US\$23.90.

Even More Short & Shivery: Thirty Spine-Tingling Tales

Retold by Robert D. San Souci. Ill. Jacqueline Rogers.

A great collection for reading silently or around a campfire. The stories are taken from a variety of traditions. There are also adaptations of stories from well-known U.S. authors. Source notes help storytellers in their quest for variants to familiar stories. (Team 5)

Delacorte. 176 pp. ISBN 0-385-32639-4. US\$10.95. CAN\$16.95.

Everworld: Search for Senna (Everworld series)

K.A. Applegate

The best-selling author of the Animorphs series takes readers on a journey to Everworld in search of Senna, a girl who has been swallowed up by the earth. A book for science fiction lovers. (Team 3)

Scholastic. 208 pp. Pb., ISBN 0-590-87743-7. US\$4.99. CAN\$6.99.

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

J.K. Rowling. Ill. Mary Grandpré.

Heeeee's back, in book two, and trouble follows. Somebody opened the Chamber of Secrets, and students are turning to stone. Readers who encounter challenges and problems in life learn to be brave, trust in yourself, and do the right thing. (Team 2)

Scholastic/Arthur Levine Books. 320 pp. ISBN 0-439-06486-4 (trade). US\$16.95. Pb., ISBN 0-439-06487-2. US\$6.99.

Home Run Heroes: Mark McGwire & Sammy Sosa

Mark Stewart and Mike Kennedy. Ill. with photographs.

Another excellent sports biography of two eminent stars' lives. It tells how both men made it to the big leagues, gives amazing facts and statistics about them, and details how they made baseball history. (Team 4)

Millbrook Press. 64 pp. ISBN 0-7613-1559-4 (library). US\$22.90. Pb., ISBN 0-7613-1045-2. US\$6.95.

How the Future Began: Communications

Anthony Wilson. Ill. with photographs.

This book for technokids and young scientists gives an overview of the communications revolution, from radios to telephones to computers.

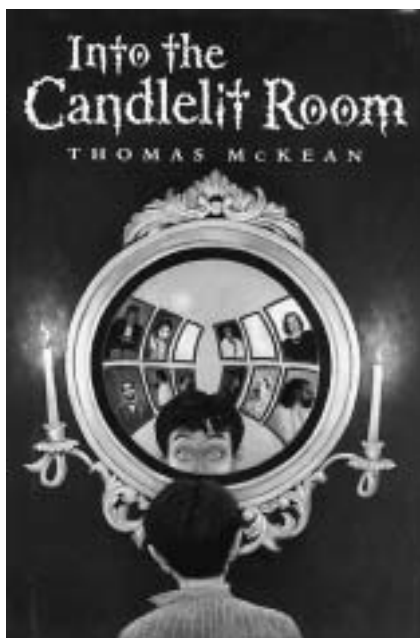


Illustration ©1999 by Patrick Milbourn from *Into the Candlelit Room and Other Strange Tales* by Thomas McKean. Reprinted by permission of Putnam Children's Books, a division of Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers.

What is the future of this revolution? Will we be able to wire human brains with computer chips? (Team 2)

Kingfisher. 64 pp. ISBN 0-7534-5179-4 (trade). US\$15.95.

Insomniacs #1: Road Kill

S.R. Martin.

A terrible accident sends the main character out into the desert. Some weird creatures find him and take him to their home under the ground. How will he escape? (Team 4)

Scholastic. 80 pp. Pb., ISBN 0-590-69130-9. US\$1.99. CAN\$2.99.

Into the Candlelit Room and Other Strange Tales

Thomas McKean.

Vladimir meets a strange new tenant who seems to know his thoughts. Leah becomes a ghost-watcher when her family rents a seaside cottage. This book contains five unusual tales that mystery lovers will enjoy. (Team 3)

Putnam, a division of Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers. 224 pp. ISBN 0-399-23359-8 (trade). US\$17.99. CAN\$25.99.

Legends of Dracula (A & E Biography Series)

Tom Streissguth. Ill. with photographs.

Readers are treated to chilling legends of vampires, among the most terrifying figures of popular culture. Unlike many of the old superstitions, the tale of the real-life Prince Dracula isn't just another scary story. (Team 5)

Lerner. 112 pp. ISBN 0-8225-4942-5 (library). US\$25.26. Pb., First Avenue Editions, an imprint of Lerner Publishing Group. ISBN 0-8225-9682-2. US\$7.95.

Mark McGwire: Home Run King

Jeff Savage. Ill. with photographs.

Baseball fans will enjoy reading about Mark McGwire and his rise to baseball stardom. This book gives information about his personal life as well as details about his record-breaking home run season with the St. Louis Cardinals. (Team 3)

Lerner. 64 pp. ISBN 0-8225-3675-7 (library). US\$21.27. Pb., First Avenue Editions, an imprint of Lerner Publications. ISBN 0-8225-9845-0. US\$5.95.

Michael Jordan: Basketball

Skywalker, Revised, 3rd Edition

Thomas R. Raber. Ill. with photographs.

Michael Jordan's personal and professional life is reported through color photos and quotes by and about him. Jordan feared he would never be tall enough to be a good player. An index and statistics page are included. (Team 5)

Lerner. 80 pp. ISBN 0-8225-3654-4 (library). US\$21.27. Pb., First Avenue Editions, an imprint of Lerner Publications. ISBN 0-8225-9846-9. US\$5.95.

Nightmare Hour

R.L. Stine. Ill. various.

You will feel a chill of terror as you read the 10 scariest stories R.L. Stine has ever written. Students loved the suspense. Each story ends leaving you to imagine what really happened. (Team 4)

HarperCollins/Parachute Press. 160 pp. ISBN 0-06-028688-1 (trade). US\$9.95. Pb., Harper Trophy. ISBN 0-06-440842-6. US\$4.99.

Shelter Dogs: Amazing Stories of Adopted Strays

Peg Kehret. Ill. with photographs by Greg Farrar.

Animal lovers will enjoy reading about dogs such as Joey who does chores for his disabled owner and

Ivan who saved his family from a house fire. (Team 3)

Albert Whitman & Company. 144 pp. ISBN 0-8075-7334-5 (library). US\$14.95.

Sunny, Diary 3 (California Diaries #12)

Ann M. Martin.

Sunny's diary records her sadness, anger, and fears about her mother's losing fight with cancer. She writes about her talks with her mom, her father's grief, and her friends' support as she faces a future without her mother. (Team 1)

Scholastic. 192 pp. Pb., ISBN 0-590-02390-X. US\$4.99. CAN\$5.50.

2099: Doomsday

John Peel.

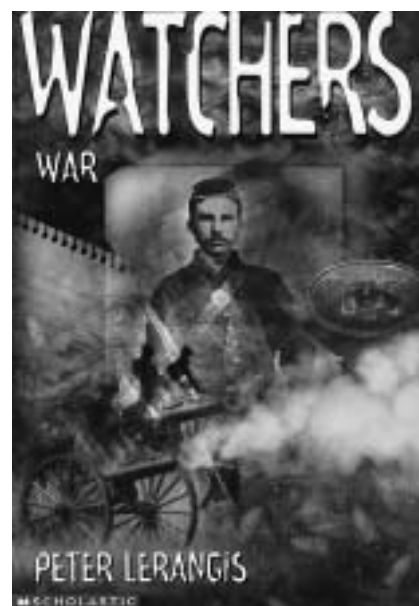
In 2099 an evil genius named Devon plans to systematically destroy the world with his Doomsday computer program. An unsuspecting Tristan discovers a secret about himself that might just save the world. (Team 3)

Scholastic. 160 pp. Pb., ISBN 0-439-06030-3. US\$4.99.

Visser (Animorphs series)

K.A. Applegate.

This book offers an answer to how the invasion began. Where does evil



Cover illustration from *Watchers #4: War* ©1999 by Peter Lerangis. Published by Apple, an imprint of Scholastic.

come from, and what power in the universe can weaken it? A mother's love vanquishes evil in this tale for sci-fi readers everywhere. (Team 2)

Scholastic. 208 pp. ISBN 0-439-08764-3 (trade).
US\$12.95. CAN\$17.99.

Watchers #4: War

Peter Lerangis.

Jake, a fan of the U.S. Civil War, gets

a reality check when a film crew comes to shoot a war epic in his hometown and he stumbles into the action on the set. (Team 2)

Apple/Scholastic. 176 pp. Pb., ISBN 0-590-10999-5. US\$4.50. CAN\$5.50.

Wild, Wild West

Dina Anastasio. Ill. with photographs.

This action-packed thriller will have you turning pages. What will happen when two fellows find opposite ways for solving problems? Will West and Gordon be able to save the country from the evil genius Dr. Loveless? (Team 4)

Scholastic. 176 pp. Pb., ISBN 0-439-08653-1.
US\$4.99. CAN\$5.99.

The
**CHILDREN'S
BOOK
COUNCIL** Inc.
568 Broadway, New York, NY 10012
<http://www.cbcbooks.org>

The Children's Book Council (CBC) is a nonprofit organization encouraging the use and enjoyment of books and related literacy materials for young people. CBC sponsors National Children's Book Week each November, and also prepares and sells display and informational materials to promote year-round reading. The Council cooperates on a variety of projects with the International Reading Association and with other national professional associations.

INTERNATIONAL
 **Reading Association**
800 Barksdale Road, PO Box 8139
Newark, DE 19714-8139, USA
<http://www.reading.org>

The International Reading Association is a nonprofit professional organization of classroom teachers, reading specialists, administrators, reading researchers, parents, librarians, and others interested in improving reading instruction. It encourages study of the reading process, research, and better teacher education. It promotes the development of reading proficiency to the limit of one's ability, and awareness of the importance for reading.

"Children's Choices for 2000" has been reprinted from the October issue of *The Reading Teacher*, ©2000, a journal about preschool and elementary school reading published by the International Reading Association.