



# Notable Books 2008

# Notable Books for 2008-2009

All titles are copyright 2008 unless indicated.

1, 2, *Buckle My Shoe*, Ana Grossnickle Hines, \$16.00, Harcourt **Grades PreK**

A child learns to count with the help of a classic nursery rhyme. Illustrated entirely with quilt patches decked out with buttons including endpapers covered with bright buttons. Children who are just learning to count will enjoy the bright artwork. **PreK Open Court: I Am Special**

3 *Bears and Goldilocks*, Margaret Willey, illustrated by Heather Solomon, \$17.00, Atheneum **K-3**

Goldilocks, ignoring her father's warning not to rush in where she does not belong, enters a cabin in the woods, cleans it to meet her standards, plucks from the porridge items unappealing to her before eating a bowlful, and falls asleep on the bed that suits her best. Told in the voice of Goldilocks and highlights a lair that looks like a lair, with feathers, fish bones, and debris. **Open Court: Sharing Stories**

@ *Abe Lincoln Crosses a Creek: a Tall, Thin Tale (Introducing his Forgotten Frontier Friend*, Deborah Hopkinson, illustrations by John Hendrix, Schwartz & Wade **Grades K-3**

In Knob Creek, Kentucky, in 1816, seven-year-old Abe Lincoln falls into a creek and is saved from drowning in the rushing river by his best friend, Austin Gollaher. Hopkinson relates the unknowns of history with these words "He pulls Abe out by his shirttail. Or maybe he uses a sycamore branch -- or a fishing pole. We'll let John decide which sketch to paint. For that's the thing about history -- if you weren't there, you can't know for sure." Illustrated with map like ink-and-watercolor artwork that occasionally shows the hand and brush of the illustrator as it gets caught in the act of creating the scene.

@ *Abe's Honest Words: The Life of Abraham Lincoln*, Doreen Rappaport, illustrated by Kadir Nelson, \$17.00, Hyperion, 2009 **Grades 3-5**

An engaging account of Lincoln's life, from his humble beginnings and his early political career through his struggles to preserve the Union and to help abolish slavery. The free verse text is accompanied by generously sized artwork. **Grade 3 HSS 3.4.6**

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@ *After Tupac and D. Foster*, Jacqueline Woodson, Putnam **Grades 6-9**

In the New York City borough of Queens in 1996, three girls bond over their shared love of Tupac Shakur's music, as together they try to make sense of the unpredictable world in which they live. Authentic language

*Ain't Nothing but a Man: My Quest to Find the Real John Henry*, Scott Reynolds Nelson, \$19.00, Nat'l Geographic **Grades 4-8**

Historian Scott Nelson introduces children to the life of the real John Henry, drawing on songs, poems, and stories to describe the man behind the legendary African-American hero. This is an excellent example of how much detective work is needed for original research.

**Open Court: A Changing America, Grade 5 HSS 5.8**

@ *Airman*, Eoin Colfer, Hyperion **Grades 5-8**

In the 1890s on an island off the Irish coast, Conor Broekhart is falsely imprisoned and passes the solitary months by scratching designs of flying machines into the walls, including one for a glider with which he dreams of escape.

@ *Albert The Fix-It-Man*, Janet Lord, illustrated by Julie Paschkis, \$16.00, Peachtree **PreK-2**

A cheerful repairman fixes squeaky doors, leaky roofs, and crumbling fences for his neighbors, who return the kindness when he catches a terrible cold. The rhythmic, simple text is perfect for reading aloud, and accompanied by cheerful illustrations. **Open Court: Our Neighborhood at Work, K HSS K.3**

@ *Amelia Earhart: The Legend of the Lost Aviator*, Shelley Tanaka, \$19.00, Abrams

Presents the story of the legendary aviator, Amelia Earhart, from her childhood until her final flight in 1937. This picture book for older readers is especially informative and attractive with paintings, historical photographs, sidebars and captions.

*The Apple-Pip Princess*, Jane Ray, \$17.00, Candlewick **Grades K-3**

In a land that has stood barren, parched by drought and ravaged by frosts since the Queen's death, the King sets his three daughters the task of making the kingdom bloom again, and discovers that sometimes the smallest things can make the biggest difference. The elegant illustrations help to encourage young readers to consider the true value of things and people's actions. **Open Court: Storytelling**

*Bandit*, Karen Rostoker-Gruber, illustrated by Vincent Nguyen, M. Cavendish **Grades PreK-2**

When Bandit's family moves to a new house, the cat runs away and returns to the only home he knows, but after he is brought back, he understands that the new house is now home. Illustrated with mixed-media illustrations that have an attractive Pop Art style, reminiscent of comic-books.

*Bear's Picture*, Daniel Pinkwater, illustrated by D.B. Johnson \$16.00, Houghton **Grades K-3**

A bear continues to paint what he likes despite the criticism of two passing gentlemen who believe that bears cannot be artists. The result is an entertaining view of what makes art. Illustrated with mixed-media artwork, including paper sculptures. Bear makes a grand champion for all young artists.

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@ *Birds on a Wire*, J. Patrick Lewis & Paul Janeczko, illustrations by Gary Lippincott, \$18.00, Wordsong **Grades 2-4**

The text of this book is a renga, a poem in which one author writes one verse (three lines) and another writes the next (two lines), linking the new verse to the previous one in some way. The poems describe the places and people one might see walking down the main street of a small American town. Illustrated with realistic artwork that also connects one scene with another. Recommended as a starter for a writing lesson.

@ *Birmingham, 1963*, Carole Boston Weatherford, Boyds Mills, 2007 **Grades 4-8**

Describes the feelings of a fictional character who witnessed the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church bombings in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1963. On each double-page spread, a few lines of spare poetry are placed opposite a stirring, unframed archival photograph. An emotional read, made even more powerful by the viewpoint of the child narrator.

@ *The Black Book of Colors*, Menena Cottin, illustrations by Rosana Faria, \$18.00, Groundwood **Grades K-4**

This non-picture book reads triumphantly. White text appears on black pages, with braille above; on the facing page, also black, images suggested in the text are printed in raised black lines, inviting the reader to discover them through touch alone. Encourages children to use their other senses to experience art, helping them understand what it is like to be blind. **Open Court: Communication**

*Boogie Knights*, Lisa Wheeler, illustrations by Mark Siegel \$17.100, Atheneum **Grades K-4**

When the knights of the castle are awakened by the noise from the Madcap Monster Ball, they decide to join the party. When the ball begins, the illustrations are monochrome, but when the seven knights join in, the style changes and more color is added.

*A Boy Named Beckoning*, Gina Capaldi, \$17.00, Carolrhoda **Grades 3-6**

An illustrated exploration of the life of Yavapai Indian Carlos Montezuma, which chronicles his childhood, in which he was kidnapped, sold into slavery, and adopted by an Italian photographer; relates what he learned when he set out to uncover his family's past; discusses his work as a doctor; and includes photographs. This title should be promoted for Native American, multicultural, and biography units. An excellent **BIOGRAPHY** choice for Gr. 4-6. **Open Court: Going West, Grade 5 HSS 5.8**

@ *Boycott Blues: How Rosa Parks Inspired a Nation*, Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrations by Brian Pinkney, \$18.00, Greenwillow **Grades 3-5**

Uses the form of a blues song to share the story of the year-long bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama, sparked by seamstress Rosa Parks' refusal to give up her seat on a city bus to a white pa 0 /MCID 8 BDCu3IT01 aw 17.68o5 Tdn1h to a 0 vj0.00acel6.4readET7a6g9.61y of theJim Cr2 1s

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*Chicken Feathers*, Joy Cowley, Illustrated by David Elliot, Philomel

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*A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever*, Marla Frazee, \$16.00, Harcourt **Grades PreK-K**

Friends James and Eamon enjoy a wonderful week at the beach house of Eamon's grandparents during summer vacation. They go to nature camp during the day and delight the grandparents at night with their antics. "This intergenerational story will elicit howls of laughter and requests for repeated readings." *School Library Journal* **Open Court: Friendship**

*The Crocodile Blues*, Coleman Polhemus, \$17.00, Candlewick, 2007 **Grades PreK-2**

Lift-the-flap pages. A wordless tale in which a man and his pet cockatoo discover, much to their dismay, the true nature of the egg they bring home from the store. "In the middle of the night, they hear a loud "Crack" and find that a crocodile has hatched. They depart, leaving the crocodile in residence. The creature turns the place into a nightclub, invites the man back, and presents him with another egg. Youngsters will laugh at both the story line and the characters depicted in this zany book." *School Library Journal*

*The Crossroads*, Chris Grabenstein, \$17.00, Random **Grades 5-8**

When eleven-year-old Zack Jennings moves to Connecticut with his father and new stepmother, they must deal with the ghosts left behind by a terrible accident, as well as another kind of ghost from Zack's past. "An absorbing psychological thriller, as well as a rip-roaring ghost story, this switches points of view among humans, trees, and ghosts with astonishing élan. Expect lots of requests." *School Library Journal*

*The Day Leo Said I Hate You!*, Robbie H. Harris, Illustrated by Molly Bang, \$17.00, Little Brown **Grades PreK-1**

Leo, upset that he has been hearing the word "no" all day, lets three words slip out that he wishes he could take back. After being sent to his room and yelled at for drawing a mean picture on his wall, Leo unleashes the dreaded curse. The two page spread is vibrantly illustrated in Bang's scribbling, cut paper style.

*Delicious: The Art and Life of Wayne Thiebaud*, Susan Goldman Rubin, \$16.00, Chronicle, 2007 **Grades 5-8**

Chronicles the life and career of American painter Wayne Thiebaud, discussing his depictions of foods, people, farms, cities, and other subjects. Readers learn about his childhood, his artistic training and background, and his struggle to find his style and to gain an audience with reproductions carefully selected to illustrate each phase of his life. **Open Court: Imagination**

@ *The Diamond of Drury Lane*, Julia Golding, \$13.00, Roaring Brook **Grades 5-8**

Orphan Catherine "Cat" Royal, living at the Drury Lane Theater in 1790s London, tries to find the "diamond" supposedly hidden in the theater, which unmasks a treasonous political cartoonist, and involves her in the street gangs of Covent Garden and the world of nobility.



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*Dinosaurs: The Most Complete, Up-to-Date Encyclopedia for Dinosaur Lovers of All Ages*, Thomas R. Holtz, \$35.00, Random, 2003 **Grades 5-8**

A comprehensive encyclopedia that provides information on dinosaurs, their history, evolution, distribution, appearance, habitats, and eventual extinction. This is an up-to-date compendium that arises from new research. "The information is often partnered with sidebars or commentaries by paleontologists working in the field, in museums, and in university labs. The illustrations range from small photos to larger sepia-toned drawings to even larger full-color paintings." *School Library Journal*

@ *Dog and Bear: Two's Company*, Laura Vaccaro Seeger, \$13.00, Roaring Brook **Grades PreK-1**

Three more easy-to-read stories reveal the close friendship between a dachshund named Dog and a stuffed bear. "Picture books about friends are common, and Seeger makes it all look deceptively simple. But besides the clear, simple story lines, the joy of these picture books is in the subtle way the pictures and text work together to evoke emotions familiar even to young children." *Booklist* **Open Court: Finding Friends**

**G r a d e s P r e**

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@ *Elizabeth Leads The Way: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and The Right to Vote*, Tanya Lee Stone, illustrated by Rebecca Gibbon, \$17.00, Holt **Grades 1-4**

A brief biography of the life and achievements of nineteenth-century women's rights activist, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who fought for a woman's right to vote. "Excellent gouache and colored pencil illustrations, rendered in a lighthearted folk-art style, provide rich background for the brief text. They establish the time period through visual details and capture Stanton's spirit and the attitudes of those she encounters without overstatement." *School Library Journal* **Grade 2 HSS 2.5**

*Emi and the Rhino Scientist*, Mary Kay Carson, photographs by Tom Uhlman, \$18.00, Houghton, 2007 **Grades 5-8**

Photographs and text provide information on the rare Sumatran rhino, the world's smallest and most endangered animal on the planet. "The text is full of important details, and the photographs are unfailingly crisp, bright, and full of variety. Reproductive biology and breeding with human assistance are explained as are the conservation and environmental issues impacting rhino survival in the wild." *School Library Journal* **Open Court: Ecology**

*Everybody Bonjourns!*, Leslie Kimmelman, illustrated by Sarah McMenemy, \$16.00, Knopf **Grades PreK-1**

A mom, dad, girl, and baby travel to Paris, where everyone says bonjour. As they explore the sights, they are cheerfully greeted again and again. Mixed-media illustrations show the family visiting the Eiffel Tower, a cafe, the zoo, and an open-air market. A clever introduction to a foreign culture as seen through a child's eyes.

@ *Eye of the Crow*, Shane Peacock, \$20.00, Tundra, 2007 **Grades 5-9**

In 1867, Sherlock Holmes, an impoverished young outcast with a Jewish father and a highborn mother, visits the scene of a woman's brutal murder, where he meets a wrongly accused young Arab and becomes a suspect himself.

*Farmer George Plants a Nation*, Peggy Thomas, paintings by Layne Johnson, \$17.00, Boyds Mills **Grades 3-5**

Picture book for older readers that celebrates George Washington's role, not just as a general and first president, but as a lifelong farmer, who learned all he could about agriculture. With quotes from Washington's diary and letters, this account will inspire young gardeners. An excellent **BIOGRAPHY** choice for Gr. 4-6 **Grade 5 HSS**

@ *Finding Home*, Sandra Markle, illustrated by Alan Marks, \$16.00, Charlesbridge **Grades K-3**

A mother koala bear and her baby leave their home range after a fire, coming close to the world of humans in their search for a new home. Based on the true story of a koala that survived multiple bushfires and wandered into a residential area. It tells a gripping story of

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*Flappers and the New American Women: Perceptions of Women from 1918 Through the 1920s*, Catherine Gourley, \$38.00, Century Books **Grades 7+**

Presents a detailed description of the images and issues about women during the 1920s including the changing fashions, fight for equal rights, and the move away from the Victorian image of women. The lively text and images, which include archival photos and reproductions of ads, will easily engage readers with well-chosen facts.

*Footwork: the Story of Fred and Adele Astaire*, Roxane Orgill, illustrated by Stephane Jorisch, \$18.00, Candlewick, 2007 **Grades 3-5**

Illustrations and easy-to-follow text describe Fred Astaire's humble dancing beginnings and the years he spent dancing with his sister, Adele. "Before Fred was famous, his sister Adele was "the dancer in the family." Orgill describes the team's childhood and early work in vaudeville and on Broadway, also touching on Fred's later achievements in films. Their dancing comes alive in focused prose and softly colored mixed-media art with period details." *Horn Book*

*Forever Rose*, Hilary McKay, \$17.00, McElderry **Grades 5-7**

"The fifth and final volume about the Casson family, is the best of them all, a jewel of a domestic comedy. Rose, the youngest, is now 11 and occupies an as yet uncharted zone between daft and brilliant. Writing in a diary, she copes with her separated but still doting parents, her talented siblings and the assorted people they collect." *Publisher's Weekly*

*Frida: Viva La Vida! Long Live Life!*, Carmen Bernier-Grande, \$19.00, Marshall Cavendish, 2007 **Grades 7+**

A collection of free verse poems about the life and work of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, accompanied by reproductions of her paintings. Presents the imagined thoughts and feelings of this artist who was plagued with physical and emotional pain but who still celebrated life. The first-person narrative creates an accessible intimacy. **Open Court: A Question of Value**

*Friday My Radio Flyer Flew*, Zachary Pullen, \$17.00, Simon & Schuster **Grades PreK-2**

A father and son find an old Radio Flyer wagon when cleaning out the attic and, through the course of a week, turn it back into a wonderful toy. Alliteration moves the story through the week, as in "Wednesday was wet./We had to wait." Full-color spreads are oversize and beautifully done in oil paints. "...affirms the bond between boys and their fathers as well as the power of imagination" *School Library Journal*

@ *Garmann's Summer*, Stian Hole, \$18.00, Eerdmans **Grades 1-3**

As the summer ends, six-year-old Garmann's three ancient aunts visit and they all talk about the things that scare them. Illustrated with mixed-media collage illustrations, prominently featuring oversize, digitally altered photographs of human heads.

*George Washington Carver*, Tonya Bolden, \$18.00, Abrams **Grades 4-6**

Outfitted with a great array of sharply reproduced contemporary photos and prints (many in color), plus a generous admixture of Carver's own paintings and botanical illustrations, the narrative takes him from birth (in slavery) to honor-laden old age and death. (*Horn Book*) An

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@ *Ghosts in the House!*, Kazuno Kohara, \$17.00, McElderry **Grades PreK-1**

Tired of living in a haunted house, a young witch captures, washes, and turns her pesky ghosts into curtains and a tablecloth. The distinctive art, all orange and black, has the look of woodcuts.

*Gibson Girls and Suffragists*, Catherine Gourley, \$38.00, Century Books **Grades 7+**

Presents an illustrated history of the images and issues of women in the early part of the twentieth century with specific emphasis on Gibson Girls and the suffragist movement. SERIES REVIEW: "Few reference titles are as user-friendly and as well suited to middle and high school use. Each book addresses stereotypes of femininity. Organized chronologically, the sparkling and engaging texts are generously expanded by numerous, well-placed black-and-white photographs and period reproductions from magazine advertisements, handbills, government propaganda, radio, and television." *School Library Journal*

@ *The Girl Who Could Fly*, Victoria Forester, \$17.00, Feiwel & Friends **Grades 5-8**

Piper McCloud's ability to fly sets her apart from the other kids, so her mother sends her to an exclusive school for children with exceptional abilities, but even there she does not fit in with the other students. "Best of all are the book's strong, lightly wrapped messages about friendship and authenticity and the difference between doing well and doing good." *Booklist*

@ *Glitch in Sleep, Bk 1*, John Hulme and Michael Wexler, illustrations by Gideon Kendall, Bloomsbury, 2007 **Grades 4-8**

When twelve-year-old Becker Drane is recruited by The Seems, a parallel universe that runs everything in The World, he must fix a disastrous glitch in the Department of Sleep that threatens the ability of everyone to fall asleep. "This is a rollicking tale, with great world-building and likable characters and a strong setup for further adventures... upbeat and full of humor." *School Library Journal*

*Golden Legacy*, Leonard S. Marcus, \$40.00, Golden Books, 2007 **All**

Traces the history of the Little Golden Books, discussing how the company, which sold children's books for as little as twenty-five cents, helped improve literacy across America and forever changed twentieth-century American life and culture. Lavishly illustrated, handsomely designed volume.

*Good Enough to Eat*, Brock Cole, \$16.00, Farrar, 2007 **Grades K-3**

An Ogre comes to town demanding a bride, so the mayor decides to sacrifice a homeless girl with no name whom everyone thinks is a pest; however, she cleverly manages to get the best of both the foul Ogre and the ungrateful townspeople. Vivid writing, incorporating some rhyming verse and some delicious vocabulary, making this a great read aloud choice. Ink and watercolor illustrations.

*Goose and Duck*, Jean Craighead George, Illustrated by Priscilla Lamont, \$20.00, Laura Geringer, **Grades K-2**

A top-notch easy reader. A boy finds a goose egg that hatches and the gosling imprints on him. Then he finds a duck egg that hatches and the duckling imprints on the goose. What follows is a delightfully sweet case of "monkey see, monkey do" as each bird imitates its "mother."

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@ *Grumpy Cat*, Britta Teckentrup, \$15.00, Boxer **Grades PreK-1**

A grumpy street cat changes its attitude when a small, abandoned kitten decides to be its friend. "Kitten ignores Cat's glare, following him about, rolling on her belly, picking her way behind him on a picket fence. Cat climbs a tree to rid himself of his shadow, but Kitten stays right behind. Then, while trying to balance on a thin branch, she slips. What's a grumpy cat to do? This more than satisfies the requirements for an outstanding picture book for the youngest listeners... the highpoint is the art; graphically inspired, textured, and large in scale, it can be enjoyed from a lap or the back of a room." *Booklist*

*Gully's Travels*, Tor Seidler, illustrations by Brock Cole, \$17.00, Scholastic **Grades 3-6**

A well-bred pampered Lhasa Apso named Gulliver is forced to leave his master and finds a new one named Carlos, the doorman of a Manhattan apartment building, who takes the dog to his place in Queens, where Gully meets low-life mutts and boisterous humans. Told in the third person. Recommended as a READ ALOUD.

@ *Heavy Equipment up Close*, Andrea Serlin Abramson, \$10.00, Sterling, 2007 **Grades 2-4**

Large, close-up photographs and text describe the parts of various types of construction equipment and earthmoving machinery and the work they do. "...tailor-made for children known to gaze longingly at construction sites. Even preschoolers will enjoy the photos, so like toys come to life, but children who can read on their own, or sit still through each page's several paragraphs of text, will get the most out of the book's terrific mix of fun technical vocabulary and trivia ripe for sharing." *Booklist*

*Helen's Eyes: a Photobiography of Annie Sullivan, Helen Keller's Teacher*, Marfe Ferguson Delano, \$18.00, National Geographic **Grades 4-6**

Photographs, illustrations, and text chronicle the life of Helen Keller's tutor, Annie Sullivan. It is honest in its portrayals, especially of Sullivan, who could be quick to take offense, particularly when her role as Keller's teacher was downplayed.

@ *Hello, Day!*, Anita Lobel, HarperCollins **Grades PreK-K**

A variety of barnyard animals greet the sunrise in their own unique voices, except for the owl who welcomes the night. Softly hued mixed-media illustrations rendered in marker, pencil, colored pencil, watercolor, and gouache, make this simple book an appealing trip through a pleasant day. "This is a book that lends itself to early childhood literacy programs, as well as toddler and lap-sitting storytimes; put it on a read-aloud shelf and watch it become a favorite participation story for little listeners." *Booklist*

*Highway Cats*, Janet Taylor Lisle, \$15.00, Philomel **Grades 4-6**

A hard-bitten group of mangy feral highway cats is changed forever after the mysterious arrival of three kittens abandoned on the median strip of an interstate highway. The kittens help them to band together to save their small patch of homeland woods from being destroyed.

*Honeybee: Poems and Short Prose*, Naomi Shihab Nye, \$18.00, Greenwillow, **Grades 5-7**

A collection of poems and short prose pieces in which Naomi Shihab Nye reflects on the topics that are most important to people, including love, memories, war, and the planet. Buzzing, industrious honeybees inspire the recurring metaphors in her writing.

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@ *Horse Song: The Naadam of Mongolia*, Ted Lewin, \$10.00, Lee & Low **Grades 2-6**

Ted and Betsy Lewin describe the landscapes, people, and activities they encounter during a trip to Mongolia for Naadam, the annual summer festival where child jockeys ride half-wild horses for miles across the Mongolian steppe. Provides a dynamic view of a culture rarely portrayed in children's books and an event that is sure to interest many young readers.

*The House In The Night*, Susan Marie Swanson, pictures by Beth Krommes, \$16.00, Houghton **Grades PreK-1**

Illustrations and simple cumulative text explore the light that makes a house in the night a home filled with light. The art is spectacular, executed in scratchboard decorated in droplets of gold. "This picture book will make a strong impression on listeners making their first acquaintance with literature. It is a masterpiece that has all the hallmarks of a classic that will be loved for generations to come." *School Library Journal*

*How I Learned Geography*, Uri Shulevitz, \$17.00, Farrar **Grades 3-6**

A boy and his parents flee Poland in 1939 and travel to Turkistan where they live in one room in a house with strangers. When the boy's father returns from the bazaar with a huge map instead of bread to feed his family, his wife and son are furious. The boy becomes fascinated by the details of the map and by using his imagination he transports himself to all

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*How We Know What We Know About Our Changing Climate*, Lynne Cherry, \$18.00, Dawn Publications **Grades 4-8**

Describes how and where scientists find evidence of climate change, including bird migration patterns, checking tree rings, and collecting mud cores; and offers advice to students on how to make a positive impact on the environment. Small color photographs show the fieldwork and experiments of scientists and students. The authors note ways in which students can have a positive impact by making personal choices and influencing public policy. **Open Court: Ecology**

@ *I Love My New Toy!*, Mo Willems, \$9.00, Hyperion **Grades K-2**

Gerald and Piggie have a misunderstanding over Piggie's new toy, but soon realize friends are more fun to play with than toys. "There is plenty of opportunity for new readers to learn useful words like sad and mad, but the charm comes in the way Willems captures the emotions of young children, sometimes with a line of dialogue ("You broke it!"), and sometimes with an artful drawn line that says as much as words." *Booklist* **Open Court: Finding Friends**

@ *I Will Surprise My Friend!*, Mo Willems, \$9.00, Hyperion **Grades K-2**

Gerald the elephant and Piggie, who are best friends, play a game to surprise each other by a big rock and their fun takes a strange turn when Gerald gets worried. "As always in this series, the combination of simple text and mischievous art will satisfy beginning readers and leave them eager to polish their skills and move toward more challenging books." *Booklist* **Open Court: Finding Friends**

@ *I, Matthew Henson: Polar Explorer*, Carole Boston Weatherford, Walker **Grades 2-5**

"Spare, poetic language tells the story of Matthew Henson in a picture-book account of the explorer's life and accomplishments. The book reveals the extreme hardships he and Robert Peary faced: frigid cold, frozen waters, frostbite, harsh winds, and lack of food or funds." *School Library Journal* **Open Court: Journeys and Quests**

*I'm Bad!*, Kate McMullan, \$17.00, HarperCollins **Grades PreK-2**

A hungry Tyrannosaurus rex searches for food in the prehistoric forest but is thwarted in its attempts to find something to eat. Its attempts at catching prey are repeatedly-and hilariously-foiled. Includes a vertical fold-out page that when lifted reveals the reptile's even bigger mother. Vibrant artwork done in bold colors.

*In a Blue Room*, Jim Averbeck, illustrated by Trica Tusa., \$20.00, Harcourt **Grades PreK-1**

"Alice is firm in her desire to sleep on the page that

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*Into the Volcano: A Graphic Novel*, Don Wood, \$18.00, Scholastic **Grades 4-6**

While their parents are away doing research, brothers Duffy and Sumo Pugg go with their cousin, Mister Come-and-Go, to Kokalaha Island, where they meet Aunt Lulu and become trapped in an erupting volcano. The artwork is suited to the story with bold lines, dramatic colors, and creative special effects.

*Jimmy's Stars*, Mary Ann Rodman, \$17.00, Farrar **Grades 4-6**

“In this beautifully crafted story about World War II on the home front, 11-year-old Ellie is terrified of losing her beloved brother Jimmy when he is drafted and the family hangs a blue star service flag for him. When word comes of Jimmy's heroic death, she refuses to give up hope that he will return from the war. Readers will find this emotionally gripping story of love and loss profoundly moving.” *Kirkus*

@ *Julia Gillian: (and The Art of Knowing)*, Alison McGhee, pictures by Drazen Kozjan, Scholastic **Grades 2-5**

Nine-year-old Julia Gillian learns a lot about facing fear as she and her St. Bernard, Bigfoot, take long walks through their Minneapolis neighborhood one hot summer, and she seeks the courage to finish a book that could have an unhappy ending. **Open Court: Courage**

@ *Jumpy Jack and Googily*, Meg Rosoff, illustrations by Sophie Blackall, Holt **Grades PreK-2**

Jumpy Jack the snail is terrified that there are monsters around every corner despite the reassurances of his best friend, Googily. The joke is that Googily is a monster himself, a fact that goes unnoticed by both. **Open Court: Being Afraid**

@ *Keeping the Night Watch*, Hope Anita Smith, illustrations by E.B. Lewis, Holt **Grades 5-8**

A thirteen-year-old African American boy chronicles what happens to his family when his father, who temporarily left, returns home and they all must deal with their feelings of anger, hope, abandonment, and fear. This book touches on themes often studied in school: family, independence, struggle, and responsibility.

*A Kitten Tale*, Eric Rohmann, \$16.00, Knopf **Grades PreK-2**

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@ *Life on Earth – and Beyond: An Astrobiologist's Quest*, Pamela S. Turner, \$20.00, Charlesbridge  
**Grades 5-7**

Examines astrobiologist Dr. Chris McKay's efforts to prove that life does exist beyond Earth, with behind-the-scenes photographs capturing McKay and his research team at work studying microbes that live beyond all odds and trying to determine if they can thrive in space. Illustrated with many excellent color photos and other images, the book concludes with Turner's note on her research, as well as lists of recommended books, movies, and Internet resources. This beautifully designed volume offers an eye-opening look at an astrobiologist in action.

*The Light of the World: The Life of Jesus for Children*, Katherine Paterson, illustrated by Francois Roca, \$18.00, Scholastic **Grades 1-3**

Tells the story of Jesus' life from his birth in Bethlehem to his crucifixion and resurrection, and describes his teachings, explaining why he is called "the light of the world." The well-expressed narrative is accompanied by lush luminous portraits painted in subtle earth tones that evoke the ancient atmosphere of biblical society.

*Lincoln Shot: a President's Life Remembered*, Barry Denenberg, illustrated by Christopher Bing, \$27.00, Feiwel & Friends **Grades 5+**

A biography of Abraham Lincoln presented in the form of a scrapbook dated one year after his assassination, with faux newspaper clippings and accounts of Lincoln's childhood, marriage, presidency, Civil War leadership, and shooting, as well as the capture and execution of the conspirators involved in his death.

*The Lincolns: a Scrapbook Look at Abraham & Mary*, Candace Fleming, \$24.00, Swartz & Wade  
**Grades 5+**

A dual biography of Abraham Lincoln and his wife, Mary, using photographs, letters, engravings, and cartoons to look at their childhoods, courtship, marriage, children, and other joys and traumas of their years together including their deaths.

@ *Listen, Listen*, Phillis Gershator, illustrated by Alison Jay, \$17.00, Barefoot, 2007 **PreK-3**

"Rhyming text describes the sounds of each season. Readers are invited to listen to the whistle of the finch in springtime and the plop of acorns dropping in the fall...the simple, evocative rhyming text is paired with crackled paintings that are striking, giving readers much to pore over." *Horn Book & Booklist*

*Little Audrey*, Ruth White, \$16.00, Farrar **Grades 5-8**

In 1948, eleven-year-old Audrey lives with her father, mother, and three younger sisters in Jewell Valley, a coal mining camp in Southwest Virginia, where her mother still mourns the death of a baby, her father goes on drinking binges on payday, and Audrey tries to recover from the scarlet fever that has left her skinny and needing to wear glasses.

# Notable Books for 2008-2009

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*Little Beauty*, Anthony Browne, \$17.00, Candlewick **Grades K-3**

A gorilla is seated in a floral armchair watching TV with his mug of tea and a hamburger. The ape's human keepers have taught him sign language, and when he signs that he is lonely, they give him a small white kitten. He names her Beauty, and the two bond in bliss. A King Kong movie on TV causes a momentary incident that is resolved happily. Outstanding artwork in Browne's signature style, this will be a great accompaniment to *Koko's Kitten*.

**Open Court: Friendship; Open Court: Communication**

*Little Mouse's Big Book of Fears*, Emily Gravett, \$18.00, Simon & Schuster **Grades K-4**

Little Mouse draws pictures of some of the many things of which he is afraid, including creepy crawlies, sharp knives, and having accidents, and provides the correct scientific name for each of his fears. Creative multimedia artwork includes collage, foldouts, cutouts, and expressive and pencil strokes. **Open Court: Being Afraid**

@ *Little Rabbit's New Baby*, Harry Horse, Peachtree **Grades PreK-1**

Little Rabbit has looked forward to becoming a big brother, but when Mama brings home triplets, he quickly realizes that babies are not much fun and begins to resent them because his parents pay so much attention to them. "The pen-and-ink and watercolor illustrations are filled in with a myriad of intricately drawn details of the bunny family and their cozy home. With everything outlined in black ink and filled in soft hues, the pictures are replete with humorous vignettes and charming, active, diaper-clad babies. A delightful addition." *School Library Journal*

@ *The London Eye Mystery*, Siobhan Dowd, \$16.00, Random **Grades 5-8**

When Ted and Kat's cousin Salim disappears from the London Eye Ferris wheel, the two siblings must work together to try to solve the mystery of what happened to Salim. "Suggest this as a read-alike to fans of Blue Balliett's *Chasing Vermeer* (Scholastic 2004) or Lauren Tarshis's *Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell Out of a Tree* (Dial, 200)." *School Library Journal*

@ *Madam President*,

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*The Magic Thief*, Sarah Prineas, illustrations by Antonio Javier Caparo, \$18.00, HarperCollins  
**Grades 5-8**

Conn's life is forever changed when he tries to pick the pocket of the wizard Nevery and instead gets a strong jolt of magic, but, instead of punishing the boy, Nevery takes Conn under his wing, teaches him magic, and enlists his help in finding the person responsible for stealing the city's dwindling magic supply.

*Mail Harry to the Moon!*, Robbie H. Harris, \$17.00, Little, Brown **Grades PreK-1**

Harry's older brother, unhappy that the new baby is making lots of noise and getting all the attention, thinks up creative ways to get rid of him. To restore order to his once peaceful household, the boy suggests a variety of solutions including mail Harry to the moon. This story will have broad appeal for those with or without a new baby in the family.

*Manfish: The Story of Jacques Cousteau*, Jennifer Berne, illustrated by Eric Puybaret, \$17.00, Chronicle **Grades K-3**

An illustrated biography of Jacques Cousteau, discussing how his youthful fascinations with filming and underwater exploration translated into his life's work, and telling of his later devotion to saving the ocean environment. Written in simple poetic language, both lyrical and concise and illustrated with smooth acrylic paintings. **Open Court: Ecology**

*March On! The Day my Brother Martin Changed the World*, by Christine King Farris, illustrated by London Ladd, \$17.00, Scholastic **Grades 2-5**

Told from the perspective of Christine King Farris who describes how her brother, Martin Luther King, Jr., prepared for his legendary "I Have a Dream" speech in Washington, D.C. She provides background about the organization of the march, a look at key events of the day, and insight into how King crafted the speech. Acrylic paintings are an excellent accompaniment to the text.

*Marco Polo*, Demi, \$19.00, Cavendish **Grades 4-6**

An illustrated biography of the thirteenth-century Venetian merchant and explorer who spent twenty-five years in Asia and befriended Kublai Khan. Includes a much shorter text than last year's offering by Russell Freedman, though there is still quite a lot of detail about his incredible 24-year world journey over 33,000 miles. The illustrations are painted with Chinese inks and gold overlays. **Open Court: Ancient Civilizations and Grade 6 HSS**

*Market Day*, Carol Foskett Cordsen, illustrated by Douglas B. Jones \$17.00, Dutton **Grades K-3**

The Benson family is so busy preparing for their day at a farmers' market that they not only forget to feed the cow, they leave the farmyard gate open and the hungry cow follows them, making a mess of the market. The retro-style illustrations transport readers to a simpler time in a rural setting. **Open Court: Country Life, Grade 2 HSS 2.1**

@ *Mattland*, Hazel Hutchins and Gail Herbert, art by Dusan Petricic, Annick **Grades K-3**

"Surrounded by an uninspiring landscape and lacking friends, Matt begins to poke at the mud outside his house. He quickly notices in his marks the beginning of a landscape. Bit by bit, a miniature world unfolds before Matt and readers, assisted by the timid offerings of neighborhood children. When a rainstorm threatens to flood the newly created "Mattland," helping hands appear to route the current safely away... The illustrator skillfully leads

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@ *My One Hundred Adventures*, Polly Horvath, \$20.00, Random **Grades 4-6**

Twelve-year-old Jane, who lives at the beach in a run-down old house with her mother, two brothers, and sister, has an eventful summer accompanying her pastor on Bible deliveries, meeting former boyfriends of her mother's, and being coerced into babysitting for a family of ill-mannered children. "Jane's poetic, philosophical musings capture a child's logic with an adult voice in this witty, wise and wonderful novel." *Kirkus*

*Nic Bishop Frogs*, Nic Bishop, \$18.00, Scholastic **Grades 2-4**

Large, striking photos illustrate a clearly written discussion of the physical characteristics and habits of frogs. The color photographs of frogs from around the world enhance the text. One dual-foldout spread carries a stop-action scene showing five stages of a frog's motion as it leaps into the air and dives into water. An author's note gives insight into both Bishop's enthusiasm and the painstaking techniques behind the spectacular images. **Grade 2 HSS**

*Nic Bishop Spiders*, Nic Bishop, \$17.00, Scholastic **Grades 2-4**

Much different from the usual sweet spider story, this photo-rich picture book is packed with astonishing facts about these highly successful predators. "One of the first photos is of the biggest known spider, the Goliath bird-eater tarantula from South America, which is as big as a page in this large-size book. Whether it's the hairs on a spider's legs that sense touch or the gruesome stuff about how spiders turn their preys' insides into soup, the details are riveting." *Booklist*

@ *Nick of Time*, Ted Bell, St. Martin's **Grades 5-8**

Twelve-year-old Nick McIver tries to help his father and sister send vital information to England about imminent Nazi invasion, until he finds himself transported through time to help his ancestor stop a mutinous captain. "With great battle scenes; lots of nautical jargon; and themes of courage, integrity, and honor, this book will appeal to restless boys who can never find books written just for them. Three huzzahs and a great big 21-gun salute to Bell for his first novel for kids. Hopefully, it won't be his last." *School Library Journal*

*Night of the Moon*, Hena Khan, illustrated by Julie Paschkis, \$17.00, Chronicle **Grades 2-4**

Yasmeen has a wonderful time celebrating the Muslim holy month of Ramadan with her family and friends. Activities include a special dinner at sunset with the family. During the following week her family prepares food to be distributed at a mosque. Paintings incorporate ttake



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*The Penderwicks on Gardam Street*, Jeanne Birdsall, illustrations by David Frankland, \$16.00, Knopf **Grades 4-7**

The four Penderwick sisters are faced with the unimaginable prospect of their widowed father dating, and they hatch a plot to stop him. “The solution to the dating dilemma may be obvious to readers from the outset, but no matter: Birdsall again delivers genuinely funny scenes and tender moments between father and daughters. The Penderwicks are fully fleshed-out characters who deserve a happily-ever-after ending.” *Horn Book*

@ *Pharaoh: Life and Afterlife of a God*, David Kennett, \$20.00, Walker **Grades 4-6**

An account of the lives of Egyptian pharaohs Seti I and his son, Ramesses II, looking at the civilizations they created, and discussing the preparations they made for their deaths and burials. A handsome book that delves into the various roles of the pharaoh, and gives readers a full understanding of Egyptian life. **Open Court: Ancient Civilizations, Grade 6 HSS 6.2**

*Piano Starts Here: The Young Art Tatum*, Robert Andrew Parker, \$17.00, Schwartz & Wade **Gr 2-4**

Explores early nineteenth-century jazz pianist and virtuoso Art Tatum's passion and talent for playing the instrument, and includes illustrations and biographical information. Illustrated in

# Notable Books for 2008-2009

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*The Prince Won't Go to Bed!*, Dayle Ann Dodds, pictures by Kyrsten Brooker, Farrar **PreK-1**

When the young prince refuses to go to bed, assorted members of the royal household offer their ideas on exactly what he needs. Round and round they go until the prince's older sister solves the problem by giving her brother a goodnight kiss. "This story is laugh-out-loud funny for children who know full well that they put their own parents through this nightly ordeal. Told with bright and playful language and a hearty helping of rhyme the text is perfect for reading aloud." *School Library Journal*

*The Puzzling World of Winston Breen*, Eric Berlin, \$17.00, Putnam **Grades 4-6**

Winston Breen loves solving puzzles; and when his sister uncovers a twenty-five-year-old scavenger hunt, which leads to a ring worth thou

## Notable Books for 2008-2009

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*Sammy Keyes and the Cold Hard Cash*, Wendelin Van Draanen, \$19.00, Knopf **Grades 4-6**

Thirteen-year-old Sammy meets a mysterious man who dies of a heart attack after telling her to get rid of the large amount of money he is carrying, leading her to investigate who the man was and how he came to be carrying so much cash.

*Sandy's Circus: a Story About Alexander Calder*, Tanya Lee Stone, illustrated by Boris Kulikov, \$17.00, Viking **Grades 4-6**

An illustrated account of American mobile artist Alexander Calder's creation of a miniature circus from wire, string, rubber, cloth, and other found objects, which grew to fill multiple suitcases.

*Santa Duck*, David Milgrim, \$17.00, Putnam **Grades K-3**

While wearing a Santa hat and coat that he found on his doorstep, Nicholas Duck goes off in search of the real Santa Claus, but when his neighbors see him, they talk as if he is something. Nicholas's silliness and frustration will appeal to youngsters as will the simple

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@ *Six Innings: a Game in the Life*, James Preller, \$16.00, Feiwel & Friends **Grades 5-8**

Earl Grubb's Pool Supplies plays Northeast Gas & Electric in the Little League championship game, while Sam, who has cancer and is in a wheelchair, has to call the play-by-play instead of participating in the game. "A tale of baseball, friendship, growth, and coming to terms with hardships, this fast read will grasp any reader who enjoys sports." *School Library Journal*

*Skunkdog*, Emily Jenkins, pictures by Pierre Pratt, \$17.00, Farrar **Grades PreK-2**

Dumpling, a lonely dog with no sense of smell, moves with his family to the country and tries to befriend a skunk in the backyard with predictable results. "Sunlit illustrations are done in oils and portray a white dog with an elongated nose and a furiously wagging black tail who complements the black-and-white skunk. Children will instantly relate to the pup's skunk encounters and share stories of their own. Important themes of loneliness, tolerance, friendship, and family emerge from this funny story. It will enrich any storytime and linger long in the minds of young readers and listeners." *School Library Journal*

*Snow*, Cynthia Rylant, illustrated by Lauren Stringer, \$17.00, Harcourt **Grades PreK-2**

Full-color illustrations and simple text introduce different types of snow to early readers, which includes soft, light, and heavy snow. The illustrations are distinguished by lush, pillowy lines and edged with blues and pinks.

*South*, Patrick Mc'Donnell, \$15.00, Little Brown **Grades PreK-3**

A little bird wakes up to find that his friends and family have flown south without him, but with the help of Mooch the cat, the bird might be able to catch up to his flock. Mooch offers a hand, leading and carrying his young charge through rural and urban landscapes, until the birds are joyfully reunited.

*Stand Tall, Abe Lincoln*, Judith St. George, Illus. by Matt Faulkner, Philomel, 2008 **Grades 2-5**

An illustrated account of the early life of Abraham Lincoln in the backwoods of Kentucky and Indiana, discussing how the support and encouragement of his stepmother Sally Johnston propelled him to success. Full page illustrations. An excellent **BIOGRAPHY** choice. **Grade 2 HSS 2.5**

*Students on Strike: Jim Crow, Civil Rights, Brown, and Me: a Memoir*, John A. Stokes, Lois Wolfe and Herman J. Viola \$16.00, Nat'l Geographic **Grades 6+**

John A. Stokes, one of the leaders of the student strike at R. R. Morton High School in 1951, describes the conditions in which he and his fellow classmates learned and provides an account of how they fought against segregation. "Period black-and-white photos and maps are included. Stokes's inspiring story reveals an almost completely unreported part of one of the most important court cases of the 20th century... this is an important choice for all collections." *School Library Journal* **Open Court: Taking a Stand**

*Tadpole Rex*, Kurt Cyrus, \$16.00, Harcourt **Grades K-3**

A tiny primordial tadpole grows into a frog, feeling just as strong and powerful as the huge tyrannosaurus rex that stomps through the mud. Rhyming text and "the swampy greens and hard edges of the digitally colored scratchboard artwork suit the prehistoric period and rough scales of the dinosaurs perfectly, while the varying scale of the illustrations will keep readers on their toes. Cyrus is a master of the extreme close-up. Readers will thrill to the action and

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suspense while teachers will appreciate the subtle lesson on the life cycle of frogs.” *Kirkus*  
**Open Court: Fossils**

*Tap Dancing on the Roof: Sijo Poems*, Linda Sue Park, pictures by Istvan Banyai, \$16.00, Clarion, 2007 **Grades 2-6**

Sijo is a traditional Korean form of poetry using a strict syllable count as haiku does. “The selections are thoughtful, playful, and quirky; they will resonate with youngsters and encourage both fledgling and longtime poets to pull out paper and pen... A smart and appealing introduction to an overlooked poetic form.” *School Library Journal*

@ *Those Amazing Musical Instruments! Your Guide to the Orchestra Through Sounds and Stories*, Genevieve Helsby, Sourcebooks, 2007 **Grades 4-9**

Contains facts and stories about the history and construction of the individual instruments that make up an orchestra, including strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion, and keyboards, with discussion of the voice, electronic instruments, and the conductor, and features musical examples on CD. “While there are many other books on this topic, this one is the most comprehensive and accessible.” *School Library Journal* **Open Court: Beyond the Notes**

*Timothy and the Strong Pajamas: A Superhero Adventure*, Viviane Schwarz, \$17.00, Scholastic **Grades PreK-2**

After his mother mends his favorite pajamas, Timothy finds that he has super strength and decides to use it to help others. When his pajamas rip he loses his strength just when he needs it most. “The watercolor illustrations vary from small vignettes, to vertical and horizontal paneled scenes, to full pages and spreads. Especially dynamic are the depictions of tiny Timothy carrying a bear so huge that he encompasses two pages... Youngsters who long to be strong and powerful will enter into this fantasy with gusto.” *School Library Journal*

@ *Tough, Toothy Baby Sharks*, Sandra Markle, Walker, 2007 **Grades 2-5**

Photographs and text introduce students to the development of baby sharks, describing how different types of shark pups grow from eggs to mature adults, the ways they avoid predators, and their ascent up the ocean's food chain. “This is an excellent introduction to a topic that has wide appeal, and an A+ addition for every science collection.” *Library Media Connection*

@ *Traction Man Meets Turbo Dog*, Mini Grey, \$17.00, Knopf **Grades PreK-3**

Traction Man braves the evil bin things in order to save Scrubbing Brush, who had been thrown away by the little boy's father and replaced with a battery-operated dog. A sequel to

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@ *The True Meaning of Smekday*,

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bounding into the world of beginning chapter books. Cleo will appeal to kids who've enjoyed Barbara Park's Junie B. Jones..." *School Library Journal*

*United Tweets of America*, Hudson Talbott, \$18.00, Putnam **Grades 3-5**

This is a joyful and irreverent look at the 50 state birds of the United States. Each entry features puns and parodies, bits of history, geography about each state, names the state bird and capital, shows a small shape map of the state, and gives its nickname. Humorously illustrated with cartoon-like ink and watercolor artwork. **Grade 5 HSS 5.9**

*Velma Gratch & the Way Cool Butterfly*, Alan Madison, illustrated by Kevin Hawkes, \$17.00, Schwartz&Wade (2007) **Grades K-3**

First grade does not go very well for Velma, whose older sisters were practically perfect students, until her class takes a trip to a butterfly conservatory and a monarch butterfly demands to be her friend. "The book is a visual and verbal delight. While it is a perfect curricular tie-in, don't wait for an excuse to share this story of a gentle but plucky girl determined to discover her talents. Kids will relate to Velma's struggle and rejoice in her victory." *School Library Journal*, **Open Court: Kindness Grade 2 Science**

*Visitor for Bear, A*, Bonny Becker, illustrated by Kady MacDonald Denton, \$17.00, Candlewick **Grades PreK-3**

Bear's efforts to keep out visitors to his house are undermined by a very persistent mouse. "The fastidious, pot-bellied bear wears a tiny apron while the wee mouse with a big personality peeks out of such unlikely places as an egg carton. The lively repetition and superb pacing make this an ideal choice for storytime." Listen to Daniel Pinkwater and Scott Simon reading; [www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=91210635](http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=91210635) **Open Court: Friendship**

@ *Vulture View*, April Pulley Sayre, illustrated by Steve Jenkins, \$17.00, Holt **Grades K-2**

Simple rhyming text and illustrations introduce readers to the turkey vulture, discussing their eating habits, behaviors, and more. "Jenkins's cut-paper illustrations capture the readily recognizable silhouette of the birds as well as zooming in to detail their intricate feather patterns. Additional factual information about vulture habitats, and resources for further study, are found in the final pages of the book." *Horn Book*

*Wabi Sabi*, Mark Reibstein ; art by Ed Young, \$15.00, Little Brown **. Iwel-18pot0s sJ0Tw ila.15 Td[person**  
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*When Randolph Turned Rotten*, Charise Mericle Harper, \$17.00, Knopf **Grades PreK-2**

Best friends Randolph, a beaver, and Ivy, a goose, do everything together until Ivy is invited to a girls-only birthday sleepover party and Randolph, full of bad feelings, tries to spoil her fun. Illustrated with colorful acrylic cartoons. "Every one of her acrylic vignettes is a goofy gem-the doll-like characters bubble with endearing, outsize personalities. An astute and empathetic look at jealousy and other emotions." *Publisher's Weekly* **Open Court: Friendship**

*When the Sergeant Came Marching Home*, Don Lemna, \$17.00, Holiday **Grades 4-7**

When his father returns from the war in 1946, a ten year old boy and his family move from their home in a Montana town to an old, run-down farm in the middle of nowhere where they work hard trying to make ends meet. Episodic chapters provide a sometimes poignant, sometimes hilarious glimpse at one family's readjustment to post-war life.

@ *Who Was First?: Discovering the Americas*, Russell Freedman, Clarion **Grades 4-6**

Freedman demonstrates how North and South America have been discovered and settled over and over since the Stone Age. In lively, graceful prose, he invites readers to ponder serious historical questions. Straightforward explanations of various historical theories include evidence for and against their validity. The book's design adds to its appeal, with plenty of color, ample white space, and carefully chosen illustrations. (*Horn Book*) **Grade 5 HSS 5.2**

@ *Wild Animals in Captivity*, Rob Laidlaw, Fitzhenry&Whiteside **Grades 5-8**

"This is a passionate, well-written, and well-researched argument against the practices of most zoos around the world. (The author) describes the damage done when animals are unnaturally confined and moved to inhospitable climates, and compares the wild and captive lives of polar bears, orcas, elephants, and great apes-the four species most harmed by captivity... This title is likely to be controversial as it does not excuse the practices of our most hallowed zoos, and it criticizes the standards of the U.S. Association of Zoos and Aquariums. The issues raised in this important and powerful book will resonate with young and old." **Grade 6: Ecology**

@ *Wild Tracks!: A Guide to Nature's Footprints*, Jim Arnosky, Sterling **Grades 2-6**

Presents detailed illustrations of life-size paw, claw, and hoof prints; and explains how to identify tracks and how fast the animal might be traveling. Includes four large gatefolds. "This new entry is worthy of purchase for its inviting format and its promising premise that kids can find tracks, interpret them, and have a great time outdoors." *School Library Journal*

@ *Will Sheila Share?* Elivia Savadier, Roaring Brook **Grades PreK-K**

Sheila, a toddler, is quite particular about what she will or will not share, but her grandmother teaches her that it is always good to share. Watercolor and ink pictures are energetic. This simple story should be just at toddler and preschooler's level of understanding as well as offering some relief to frustrated adults.

*The Willoughbys*, Lois Lowry, \$16.00, Houghton **Grades 4-6**

A tongue-in-cheek take on classic themes in children's literature, in which the four Willoughby children set out to become "deserving orphans" after their neglectful parents embark on a treacherous around-the-world adventure, leaving them in the care of an odious nanny.

## Notable Books for 2008-2009