



The Review Crew

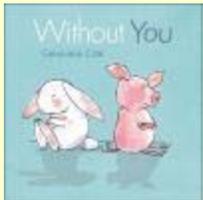
What's New and Great for Our Youngest Readers?

Brought to you by the Denver Public Schools Book Review Committee.

Volume 7 Number 8
April 2011

Fiction

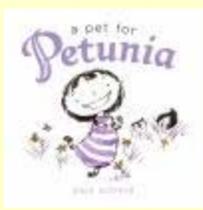
Without You
Written and illus. by: Genevieve Cote
Kids Can Press, 2011
ISBN: 9781554536207



Curriculum: Friendship
Bunny and Piggy are best friends, but fight over Piggy playing too rough and they decide to play on their own. By the end of the story though they realize that books are funnier, cookies taste better, and the music is sweeter when the friends do things together.

Reviewed by: Leah Rounds
Alumni

A Pet for Petunia
Written and illus. by: Paul Schmid
Harper, 2011
ISBN: 978061963315

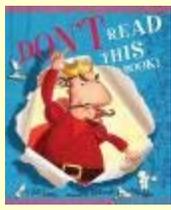


Curriculum: Pets; Skunks
Petunia doesn't just like skunks; she loves them. She wants a pet skunk so bad, but doesn't believe her parents when they tell her they stink. She runs away to the for-

est only to come across a real skunk and soon finds out for herself how much they really do stink.

Reviewed by: Leah Rounds
Alumni

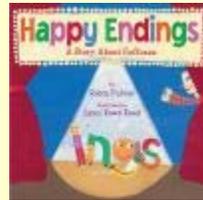
Don't Read This Book!
By: Jill Lewis
Illus. by: Deborah Allwright
Tiger Tales, 2010
ISBN: 9781589250949



Curriculum: Fractured Fairy Tales
The King's assistant has been ordered to write a story about the wonderful, intelligent and handsome king, but he has lost his notes. The king orders every reader to stop reading as he and the assistant travel through different tales searching for the perfect story to highlight the king's traits. Colorful illustrations and varied fonts help to make this a humorous read aloud.

Reviewed by: Cheri Hilton
South H.S.

Happy Endings: A Story about Suffixes
By: Robin Pulver
Illus. By: Lynn Rowe Reed



Who are we?

- ☺ We are DPS teacher librarians from elementary, middle and high school.
- ☺ We know DPS students and the DPS curriculum.
- ☺ Every month each member writes reviews of at least fifteen recently published books.
- ☺ Our hard work earns thousands of dollars of free books for our school libraries and for the classroom library at ERS, where DPS teachers can order baskets of books for their classrooms. (Call 720-423-8131 to order.)

Holiday House, 2011

ISBN: 9780823422968

Curriculum: Suffixes and prefixes; Schools

As Mr. Wright prepares his class to "tackle word endings", the suffixes hide themselves in the classroom to force kids to realize how important they are in forming words. Now, instead of begrudgingly studying the suffixes, the kids realize the value they provide in their writing. Fun illustrations and a unique way of approaching a rather mundane part of language will make this quite an appealing choice to introduce or review the usage of suffixes.

Reviewed by: Karyn Pocerlich
Ford Elem.

Mirror

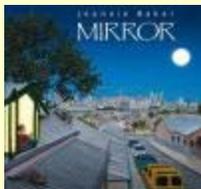
By: Jeannie Baker
Candlewick, 2010

ISBN:
9780763648480

Curriculum: Cultural Differences; Middle East; Arabic

This side-by-side picture book offers a glimpse into the lives of two boys; one in Morocco and the other in Sydney. The introduction is the only text in the book, but the English text is mirrored in Arabic script. The beautiful collage pictures offer a gorgeous visual comparison of a typical day in each boy's life. Highly recommended.

Reviewed by: Sudi Stodola
Thomas Jefferson H.S.



Every Girl is a Princess

Written and illus by:
Mylo Freeman

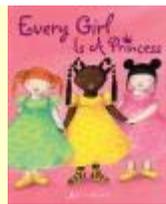
Clavis Books, 2011

ISBN: 9781605370873

Curriculum: Princesses

This book contains five princesses from all over the world. They each have their favorite animal and their crown with their favorite symbol. But there is an extra crown, could it be for you?

Reviewed by: Marilyn Martin
Park Hill Elem.



Little Bear and the Marco Polo

By: Else Holmelund Mironik

Illus. by: Dorothy Doubleday

Harper, 2010

ISBN: 9780060854850

Curriculum: Bears; Grandfathers; Seafaring life

As Little Bear was helping Grandfather Bear clean the attic, they talked about all the other kinds of bears around the world. Little Bear opens the big chest where he discovers lots of Grandfather's memories from his seafaring years. Grandfather says to always remember there is no place like home.

Reviewed by: Marilyn Martin
Park Hill Elem.



A Garden for Pig

By: Kathryn K. Thurman

Illus. by: Lindsay Ward
Kane Miller, 2010



ISBN: 0781935279242

Curriculum: Pigs; Organic Gardening

Pig has had enough of apples. He craves some vegetables. By a slick trick of digestion, out pop some squash seeds. With patience and a little help from nature, Pig now has a squash garden. Pig loves squash. At the end of the book Pig and the author offer tips on growing your own organic garden.

Reviewed by: Gretchen Allgeier
Stedman Elem.

Nonfiction

Cheeky Chiller

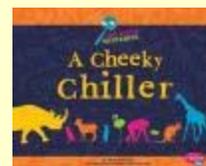
By: Alyse Sweeney
Capstone, 2011

ISBN: 9781429644990

Curriculum: Chimpanzees

"This book is full of clues about a mystery zoo animal. Can you guess what I am?" A simple text and full-color photographs gradually present clues about this mystery zoo animal until its identity is fully revealed. Every turn of the page brings another clue. The clues include description, food, habitat, and babies.

Reviewed by: Marilyn Martin
Park Hill Elem.



TV. If kids are entertained by two letters, imagine the fun they'll have with twenty-six. Open your child's imagination. Open a book. Author Unknown

The Best for Upper ElemReaders!

Many of these books will work
in middle school, too!

Fiction

The Crows of Pearblossom

By: Aldous Huxley

Illus. by: Sophie
Blackall

Abrams Books for Young Readers,
2011

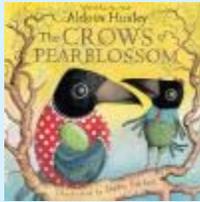
ISBN: 9780810997301

*Curriculum: Crows; Snakes; Owls;
Eggs*

Mrs. Crow lays eggs in her nest. A hungry rattlesnake dines on them. Mr. Crow, with owl's help, fashions eggs of clay that stick in the snake's craw, ending his foraging. Some of the humor will be most appreciated by an older audience but the story and ink/watercolor illustrations will delight all ages.

Reviewed by: Cat DeRose

Trevista ECE-8



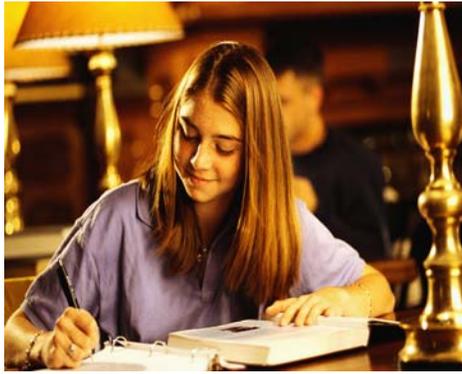
Crosswire

By: Dotti Enderle

Calkins Creek, 2010

ISBN: 9781590787519

*Curriculum: Droughts;
Historical fiction; Range wars; Cat-
tlemen*



Free-range cattlemen are cutting the fences of Texas ranchers. A drought has escalated the problem and violence is starting to grow. Thirteen-year-old Jesse and his family are ranchers. When their fences are cut a second time, his father hires a mysterious man named Jackson to mend them. Jesse is skeptical of this man and suspects he is involved in cutting the fences.

Reviewed by: Dr. Lynne Lopez-

Crowley

MSLA

Touch Blue

By: Cynthia Lord

Scholastic Press, 2010

ISBN: 9780545035316

*Curriculum: Foster chil-
dren; Families; Friendship*

Due to declining enrollment, the island school may have to close. If this happens many families will have to move off the island. Several families decide to foster children to bring up enrollment. Eleven-year-old Tess and her family are going to foster thirteen-year-old Aaron. Aaron has been in several foster homes since being taken from his mother several years before. Sullen and angry he rejects Tess's offer of



friendship. Tess is undeterred by Aaron's attitude and keeps trying to endear him to island life.

Reviewed by: Dr. Lynne Lopez-Crowley
MSLA

Nonfiction

Pioneers of Equality

By: Jim Ollhoff

ABDO, 2011

ISBN: 9781617147128

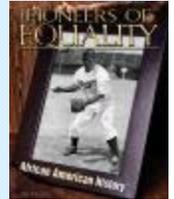
*Curriculum: African
American history; Civil War; Harlem
Renaissance*

The African American struggle towards equality since the Civil War is examined readers explore the hardships of racism and the people, such as Ida Wells-Barnett, Scott Joplin, Jackie Robinson, and George Washington Carver, who helped break down racial barriers. The two reviewed titles in the *African American History* series offer a brief but informative introduction to the title topic.

Terrific historical photos and illustrations enhance the text.

Reviewed by: Nancy Lucas

JFK H.S.



Soccer in North Amer- ica

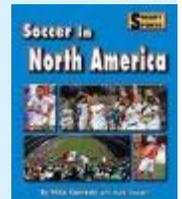
By: Mike Kennedy

Norwood House Press,
2011

ISBN: 9781599534442

Curriculum: Soccer; Sports

One in a series, Smart About Sports,



this expository text focuses on the history, stadiums, players, and rules of countries that participate in North American soccer. An excellent layout makes the information easy to locate and the topic is a popular one with students.

Reviewed by: Leah Rounds

Alumni

**Does an Apple a Day
Keep the Doctor Away?**

By: Sandy Donovan

Illus. by: Colin C. Thompson

Picture Lerner, 2010

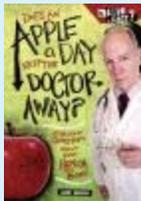
ISBN: 9780822590842

Curriculum: Health

Can you catch cold going outside with wet hair? Can sleeping with a bar of soap stop leg cramps? Seventeen common wives tales about health are examined for their validity. Large formatting, text variety and colored fast facts make this a fun introduction to elementary health units.

Reviewed by: Cheri Hilton

South H.S.



used and then to more easily gain the meaning. Young poets will be inspired to try their hand at creating this unique form of poetry, which will prove to be both challenging and fun.

Reviewed by: Karyn Pocernich

Ford Elem.

**Can We Save the
Tiger?**

By: Martin Jenkins

Illus. by: Vicky White

Candlewick Press, 2011

ISBN: 9780763649098

*Curriculum: Wildlife conservation;
Extinction; Tigers*

The dodo, the great auk, and marsupial wolf- all are gone forever. Will tigers meet the same fate? This stellar volume puts readers face to face with nearly two dozen endangered species. The text is informative and thoughtful while pencil/oil paint illustrations bring these creatures to life in a large album format.

Reviewed by: Cat DeRose

Trevista ECE-8



Middle School Reader Gold Mine

Many of these books will
work in high school, too!



Fiction

Girl's best friend

By: Leslie Margolis

Bloomsbury, 2010

ISBN: 9781599905259

Curriculum: Mystery; School; Dog walking

Maggie is a dog walker after school but don't tell her parents, they don't approve. Then Maggie meets Milo, a cute, new boy in school. They both love dogs so they have something in common. But Maggie sees Milo do something very suspicious. And since dogs have been disappearing all over town, it seems to point an ugly finger of suspicion right at him.

Reviewed by: Chris Coble

Kepner M.S.



**Lemonade and Other
Poems Squeezed from
a Single Word**

By: Bob Raczka

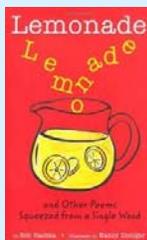
Illus. By: Nancy Doniger

Roaring Brook Press, 2011

ISBN: 9781596435414

Curriculum: Children's poetry

'Squeezing' a poem out of just one word is not as easy as it would seem! Raczka offers a variety of just such poems. Each is presented twice - first to see how the letters were



*There is no Frigate
like a Book
To take us Lands
away,
Nor any Coursers
like a Page
Of prancing Poetry...*

Emily Dickinson

Under the Green Hill

By: Laura Sullivan
Henry Holt, 2010
ISBN:
9780805089844



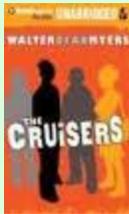
Curriculum: Superstition; Fairies; Family

Who believes in fairies? Certainly not the Morgan children who have been sent to England to live with relatives. On their first night they disobey their aunt and uncle and enter the forest. Rowan is chosen by the fairy queen to be her champion in the mid-summer war. Meg, unwilling to lose her brother in a war she has never heard of, spends all her time and energy trying to find a way to save him.

Reviewed by: Chris Coble
Kepner M.S.

The Cruisers

By: Walter Dean Myers
Scholastic Press, 2010
ISBN: 9780439916332



Curriculum: Race relations; School newspapers; Freedom of speech

The Cruisers are a group of eighth grade students that have created an unofficial paper. They are known by doing only enough work to get Cs in school. While studying the civil war their teacher divides the class into Union and Confederate sympathizers. The Cruisers are selected to negotiate peace between the two factions. When the Confederates publish offensive stories in the school newspaper as part of the role playing, the Cruisers fight back

with editorials in their own paper. The question now becomes one of free speech.

Reviewed by: Dr. Lynne Lopez-Crowley
MSLA

Ascendant

Written by: Diana Peterfreund
Harper Teen, 2010



ISBN: 9780061490026

Curriculum: Unicorns; Hunters; Self Awareness

This is the sequel to *Rampant*. Astrid returns with the self-confidence of a unicorn hunter. She continues to have doubts, so when offered a chance to work on the scientific hunt for the "Remedy," she accepts. Her boyfriend has returned to the states, and an earlier boyfriend makes an appearance. With all these changes, Astrid must make some hard decisions. Does she continue to hunt and kill unicorns, or should she be saving them?

Reviewed by: Karen Burns
Place Bridge Academy

Violet in Bloom

By: Lauren Myracle
Amulet Books, 2010
ISBN: 9780810989832



Curriculum: Friendship; School; Mental illness

Four girls who have nothing in common except that they all have "flower" names have somehow come together in friendship. Camilla, otherwise known as Milla, is leading the charge to get healthier snacks in school. Katie Rose is trying hard to control her temper and Yasaman is struggling to keep her Muslim identity and still

Review Crew Staff

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MSLA

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Karyn Pocernich
Ford Elementary

Leah Rounds
Alumni

From ERS:

Dave Sanger
Karen Shannon
Antonio Nicotera

be part of the group. But Violet is fighting the toughest fight by trying to understand her mother's mental illness. This is book two in the *Flower Power* series.

Reviewed by: Chris Coble
Kepner M.S.

Nonfiction

Totally Human: Why We Look and Act the Way We Do

By: Cynthia Pratt Nicolson

Illus. by Dianne Eastman
Kids Can Press, 2011

ISBN: 9781554535699

Curriculum: Evolution; Human origins

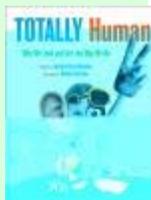
Why do you yawn, sleep, or hiccup? Why do you vomit, or burp and fart? You'll find all the answers to these questions and more in this fact filled book that explains the biological and evolutionary reasons for our simple body functions. Rather bizarre Photoshopped illustrations, that will appeal to its appointed audience, accompany this informational text.

Reviewed by: Gretchen Allgeier
Stedman Elem.

I Dreamed of Flying Like a Bird

Written and illus
by: Robert B. Hass

National Geographic, 2010



ISBN: 9781426306938

Curriculum: Aerial Photography; Wildlife

The author is an aerial photographer and takes the reader on a wonderful journey as he photographs animals in the wild. From the savanna grasslands of Africa to the waters of Greenland, there are some beautiful and unique pictures of many animals in their native environment. The reader sees giraffes, sharks and even flamingos from an aerial point of view. The author talks about his adventures and what it takes to get these unique pictures. This is a wonderful book to read and enjoy.

Reviewed by: Karen Burns

Place Bridge Academy

I had just taken to reading. I had just discovered the art of leaving my body to sit impassive in a crumpled up attitude in a chair or sofa, while I wandered over the hills and far away in novel company and new scenes... My world began to expand very rapidly,... the reading habit had got me securely.

Young Adults Deserve the Best!

Fiction

Delirium

By: Lauren Oliver

Harper, 2011

ISBN: 9780061726828

Curriculum: Governmental control; Coming of age

Lena, 17, is just months away from her governmentally mandated cure to rid her of *amor deliria nervosa*. At this time she will be assigned a career path and a future husband. Life is safe, predictable and stable until Alex, an uncured "invalid", arrives on scene. Will Lena sacrifice all for love or will the law make this choice for her? This stirring look at governmental control, its benefits and consequences, will appeal to fans of Westerfeld's *Uglies* series and Lowry's *The Giver*.

Reviewed by: Nancy Lucas
JFK H.S.

The Big Crunch

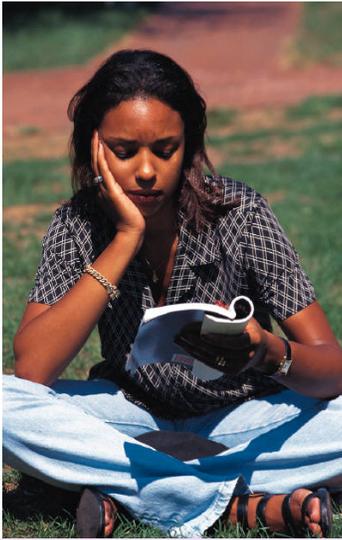
By: Pete Hautman

Scholastic, 2011

ISBN: 9780545240758

Curriculum: Coming of age; Love;





Long-distance relationships

Jen moves constantly due to her father's work. Wes just got out of a relationship. They try to avoid it, pretend it's not happening, but they are falling in love. Of course, at this point, Jen moves again. Jen and Wes are mature (mostly) characters who, appreciatively, hold on to their own individualities throughout this challenge, but can their love survive the distance? This sweet, chaste novel will capture the hearts of upper MS and HS romantics wanting a quick escape into a thoughtful relationship.

Reviewed by: Nancy Lucas
JFK H.S.

You Are Not Here

By: Samantha Schutz
PUSH, 2010
ISBN:
9780545169110



Curriculum: Relationships; Death; Novels in Verse

Annaleah kept Bryan a secret, intensifying this teen romance. When Bryan suddenly passes

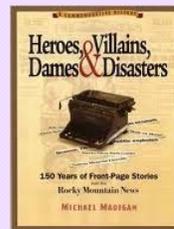
away, intense grief consumes her. Learning major details about Bryan's life, she becomes unable to trust others as grief turns to anger. Written in verse, this story presents a balance between perceived relationships and what reality entails.

Reviewed by: Cheri Hilton
South H.S.

Nonfiction

Heroes, Villains, Dames & Disasters

By: Michael Madigan
MadIdeas 2009



ISBN: 9780982377505

Curriculum: Colorado History; Primary Sources;

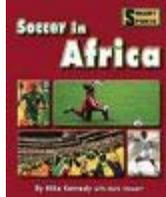
With actual copies of the pages and brief summaries of the highlights, this book chronicles the history of Denver and The News from its inception in 1859 to its final edition. From gold fever in 1859 to Emily Griffith's murder in 1947 to Obama's election, students and teachers will find this journalistic history fascinating.

Reviewed by: Sudi Stodola
Thomas Jefferson H.S.

Books had instant replay long before televised sports.
Bern Williams

Series Books

Smart About Sports: Soccer



By Mike Kennedy
3-5 Non-Fiction
Focuses on the history, players, and countries that play soccer around the world.

Sports Illustrated Kids



By: Various authors
3 - 5 Graphic novels
Popular stories about a variety of sports.

Return to the Library of Doom



By: Michael Dahl
3 - 5 Fiction
Horror stories for young and reluctant readers.

Field Trip Mysteries



By: Steve Brezenoff
3 - 5 Fiction
The sixth graders from Franklin Middle School go on a variety of field trips and solve the mysteries they find on each one.