Fiction

The Scar
By: Charlotte Moundlic
Illus. by: Olivier Tallec
Candlewick, 2011
ISBN: 9780763653415
Curriculum: Loss; Mothers and sons; Grief
The death of a young boy's mother is overwhelming, but he can only deal with it from his perspective. He tries to hold on to her scent by keeping the windows shut, and he worries that she did not teach his father how to make toast the way he likes it. He keeps opening a scab on his knee because that reminds him of his mother's voice when she would comfort him. But finally the wound becomes a scar, and his healing begins. This simple book would be helpful for a student dealing with a death.
Reviewed by: Peggy Obert
Waller ECE-8

Bumble-Ardy
Written and illus. by: Maurice Sendak
Harper Collins, 2011
ISBN: 9780062051981
Curriculum: Birthdays; Parent’s love
Bumble-Ardy is a mischievous pig who has missed eight birthdays in a row. Now that his Aunt Adeline has taken him in, he throws a big party for himself, but it ends in disaster. But the love of a parent is never lost, even when the child is more than exuberant.
Reviewed by: Leah Rounds
Alumni

First Week at Cow School
By: Andy Cutbill
Illus. by: Russell Ayto
Harper Collins, 2011
ISBN: 9780007273386
Curriculum: Cows; Schools
Daisy didn't quite fit in with her classmates at Cow School. They excelled at hoof painting, cow pat making, and cud chewing. Although Daisy's mom was a cow, she was a chicken. When the chance finally came to show her talent in flying, Daisy realized that she was special, too! Young readers will love the eye-catching, distinctively detailed cows throughout the story as well as understand Daisy's great desire to fit in and be accepted.
Reviewed by: Karyn Pocernich
CMS Community School

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 ETLS, where DPS teachers can order baskets of books for their classrooms. (Call 720-423-8131 to order.)
**Sammy in the Sky**
By: Barbara Wash
Illustrated by: James Wyeth
Candlewick Press, 2011
ISBN: 9780763649272
Curriculum: Human-animal relationships; Hounds; Dogs; Death
For one little girl, her hound dog Sammy is everything – a friend, a protector, and a playmate. Then the inevitable happens and Sammy dies. This straightforward, honest story is illustrated with soft watercolors and tenderly approaches grief and the celebration of life.
Reviewed by: Michelle Jensen
Thomas Jefferson HS

**La Coleccionista de Palabras**
Written and Illus. by: Sonja Wimmer
Cuento de Luz, 2011
ISBN: 9788493824068
Curriculum: Vocabulary; Words
Luna "collected words the same way other people collected stamps." She tried to gather them up and scatter them where needed. She gave words of tolerance where there was hatred and words of hope where there was despair. Eventually this led to other people doing the same and the positive power of words was felt all over. The idea that words really can make a difference for good comes across quite effectively in this evocatively illustrated and creatively presented Spanish text.
Reviewed by: Karyn Pocernich
CMS Community School

**Animal Safari: Giraffes**
By: Kari Schuetz
Bellwether Media, 2012
ISBN: 9780531226421
Curriculum: Giraffes: Animal characteristics and behavior
One in a series, this book focuses on the characteristics and behaviors of giraffes. Brilliant photographs help to highlight the simple facts on each page.
Reviewed by: Leah Rounds
Alumni

**Nutcracker**
Written and illus. by Mary Engelbreit
HarperCollins Children, 2011
ISBN: 9780060885793
Curriculum: Fairy tales; Christmas
A new and magical rendition of the 1816 German story that has become a holiday favorite. The extremely elaborate illustrations are a joy to look at for there is no end to the rich detailing and small craftily hidden surprises contained in each one. It is the Christmas season and Marie receives a handsome wooden Nutcracker from her uncle. During the night, a fierce battle ensues between the Nutcracker and the Mouse King. At midnight, Marie throws her slipper hitting the Mouse King in the head. The Nutcracker is able to claim victory thus breaking the spell and returns to being a handsome prince.
Reviewed by: Irene Bell
Alumni

**The Unforgotten Coat**
By: Frank Cottrell Boyce
Illus. by: Carl Hunter and Clare Heney
Candlewick Press, 2011
ISBN: 9780763657291
Curriculum: Mongols; Refugees; Emigration and immigration; Bootle (Sefton, England)
When two Mongolian brothers suddenly appear in her sixth grade class, the eldest declares that Julie will be their "Good Guide". So begins her relationship with these mysterious youngsters. This tale of the hardships British immigrants face resonates with situations state-side. Curious photographs add realism to this story born of the author’s experience at a British primary school. A moving read.
Reviewed by: Cat DeRose
Trevista ECE-8

**Francis Woke up Early**
By: Josephine Nobisso
Illus. by: Maureen Hyde
Gingerbread House, 2011
ISBN: 9780940112209
Curriculum: Francis, of Assisi, Saint; Wolves; Farm life
Francis wakes early while the rest of
house continues to slumber. He goes out into the farm yard to collect fresh eggs and milk for breakfast. But, the wild she-wolf lurks nearby, her shadow growing nearer and larger all the time. True to his animal-loving nature, Francis wins her over by sharing his breakfast.

Reviewed by: Gretchen Allgeier
Edison Elem.

**Wizard of Dark Street (An Oona Crate Mystery)**

By: Shawn Thomas Odyssey
EgmontUSA, 2011
ISBN: 9781606841433

*Curriculum: Mystery; Fantasy, Magical creatures*

Even though she possesses the extremely rare gift of natural magic, Oona Crate has no wish to be her uncle’s apprentice and become the next wizard of Dark Street. She wants to become a detective. On the night Oona signs the papers giving up her right to the coveted position, her uncle is attacked. Oona must find out who wanted her uncle dead before her home is torn down, potentially opening the gates that keep the human and fairy worlds from colliding.

Reviewed by: Sudi Stodola
CEC Middle College

**Cool Stuff for Your Garden**

By: Pam Scheunemann
Abdo; 2012
ISBN: 9781617149849

*Curriculum: Gardens; Gardening; Garden ornaments*

A visual list of tools and materials introduces the reader to seven terrific projects for the garden including stenciled stepping stones, a Zen garden, a magical fairy house, and a double-decker bird bath. Kids will have a great time constructing these easy to make yet great looking projects.

Reviewed by: Gretchen Allgeier
Edison Elem.

**The Christmas Coat: Memories of My Sioux Childhood**

By: Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve
Illus. by: Ellen Beier
Holiday House, 2011
ISBN: 9780823421343

*Curriculum: Sneve, Virginia Driving Hawk; Dakota Indians*

As the daughter of the Episcopalian minister on South Dakota’s Rosebud reservation, young Virginia is raised to think of others before herself. When the charity boxes arrive from eastern congregations, a warm coat of fur she longs for goes to a rival. Though disappointed, her sacrifice is ultimately rewarded. This moving true story is enhanced with realistic watercolor illustrations.

Reviewed by: Cat DeRose
Trevista ECE-8
deal with his mother's cancer and problems at school while being haunted by a nightmare. Now he is visited by the frightening spirit of the yew tree outside his window. What are the monster's stories trying to tell him? In herbal folklore, the yew brings healing, and that happens here as Conor comes to terms with the secret of his own monster. This is a powerful book for students experiencing the guilt that accompanies a loss.

Reviewed by: Peggy Obert
Waller ECE-8

**Wonderstruck**
Written and Illustrated by: Brian Selznick
Scholastic Press, 2011
ISBN: 9780545027892
Curriculum: Family; Hearing impaired; Museums; New York City

Ben and Rose each have a story that is told using pictures and text. Their stories happen many years apart, yet they will blend seamlessly toward the end. After the death of his mother, Ben is searching for a long lost father. Rose is also searching for the mother who did not want her. How are these stories related? You will just have to read the book and enjoy the wonderful illustrations.

Reviewed by: Karen Burns
Place Bridge Academy

**Everybody Bugs Out**
By: Leslie Margolis
Bloomsbury, 2011
ISBN: 9781599905266
Curriculum: Middle school; Friendship; Dances

Annabelle just can't figure out what the big deal is. All of her friends are freaking out about the first big dance of the year. “Who is going with who” and “Is it okay to ask so and so” are the only topics of conversation. Annabelle knows who she wants to ask but just before she does she finds out that her best friend has already ask him.

Reviewed by: Chris Coble
Kepner M.S.

**The Princess Curse**
By: Merrie Haskell
Harper, 2011
ISBN: 9780062008138
Curriculum: Magic; Herbs; Curses

Reveka is an apprentice in a castle where the twelve princesses are causing a stir. Every evening the princesses disappear from their tower room and in the morning they reappear with their silk slippers worn through. In another tower room are rows of sleepers - men and women who tried to discover the mystery of where the princesses disappear to each evening. Now Reveka is interested also because the reward for finding the answer to the mystery is a fortune, enough to set her up in her own herbarium.

Reviewed by: Chris Coble
Kepner M.S.

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**Around the World**
Written by: Matt Phelan
Candlewick, 2011
ISBN: 9780763636197
Curriculum: Voyages, Adventures; Adventurers

This graphic novel chronicles the journeys of three nineteenth century adventurers. Thomas Stevens rode the first bicycle around the world in 1884. Determined to travel around the world in less than 80 days, Nellie Bly departs from New York in 1889 and travels around the world in 74 days. The last adventurer, Joshua Slocum, travels around the world in his sailboat in 1895.

Reviewed by: Dr. Lynne Lopez-Crowley
MSLA
Auschwitz: Voices from the Death Camp
By: James M. Deem
Enslow, 2012
ISBN: 9780766033221
Curriculum: Jewish Holocaust; Genocide; Concentration Camps; World War II

This powerful history of Auschwitz, from inception of the camp to the present-day Auschwitz Museum is told from the personal perspective of both prisoners and Nazi administrators. The main text is supplemented with primary source, personal narratives inserted as text boxes. Other primary sources are presented to extend and explain the narrative (camp registers, illustrations by prisoners, and photos).

Reviewed by: Janice Pacheco
Skinner MS

Spies, Double Agents, and Traitors
By: Susan K. Mitchell
Enslow, 2012
ISBN: 9780766037113
Curriculum: Spies; Espionage; Traitors

An energetic, colorful account of famous spies, traitors and double agents throughout history; this book includes the likes of Benedict Arnold, Mata Hari, Kim Philby and Robert Hanssen among others. Personal motivations for their activities and their "not-so-glorious" endings are presented along with a final section on the career path to becoming a spy catcher (aka counter-intelligence agent) for the FBI.

Reviewed by: Janice Pacheco
Skinner MS

September 11, 2001
By Wilborn Hampton
Candlewick Press, 2011
ISBN: 9780763657673
Curriculum: U.S History; Islam; Terrorism

"We will never forget." Words that invoke the indelible images etched in the minds of so many who were going about daily life on that fateful day nearly twelve years ago. Walk with several people - victims, witnesses and administration as they revisit their experiences in heartbreakingly vivid and candid memoirs of September 11. Retold in an empathetic, yet journalistic manner by an accredited journalist, this volume has been amended to include a Postscript chapter relating a breath-holding account of SEAL Team 6's raid on Osama bin Laden's compound, resulting in his termination.

Reviewed by: Cheryl Joseffy
Henry M.S.

You Are My Only
Written by: Beth Kephart
Egmont USA, 2011
ISBN: 9781606842720
Curriculum: Kidnapping; Mothers; Daughters

Young Adults Deserve the Best!

From ETLS:
Dave Sanger
Karen Shannon
Antonio Nicotera
Emmy is devastated when her baby is kidnapped. Hours after it is kidnapped she is accosted by police and eventually interned at a mental institution for being unstable. Meanwhile, fourteen years later, Emmy's daughter Sophie is starting to rebel against the woman who she thinks is her mother. She is tired of being homeschooled and desires to make friends. She makes friends with the boy next door while her mother is at work and for the first time in her life is exposed to a normal family. She goes through some of her mother's personal papers and discovers that she was kidnapped when she was younger. She must decide what to do next.

Reviewed by: Dr. Lynne Lopez-Crowley
MSLA

**Life: An Exploded Diagram**
By: Mal Peet
Candlewick Press, 2011
ISBN: 9780763652272
Curriculum: Coming of age; Cuban Missile Crisis; John F. Kennedy; Fidel Castro

Clem pens the history of his family and his own British working-class life from the vantage point of 2011. Highlighted is his coming-of-age during the height of the Cuban Missile Crisis and his illicit romance with the wealthy Frankie, daughter of his father's employer. As the Cuban Missile Crisis heats up so does their love, but with disastrous consequences. To fully appreciate this worthwhile novel, readers would benefit with background knowledge about WWII and the Kennedy/Castro era.

Reviewed by: Nancy Lucas
JFK H.S.

**All These Things I've Done**
By: Gabrielle Zevin
Farrar Straus Giroux, 2011
ISBN: 9780374302108
Curriculum: Organized crime; Family

It's 2083. Chocolate and caffeine are illegal, but Anya's family is one of the world's major underground chocolate makers. Couple this with Anya's new romance with Win, the assistant DA's son, the poisoning of Anya's ex-boyfriend, and the fact that Anya's murdered father was the Balanchine crime boss and you're left with an awesome read. Give this book to HS fans of mystery, romance, strong female leads, or drama. Readers will eagerly look forward to the next book in the Birthright series.

Reviewed by: Nancy Lucas
JFK H.S.

**The Beginning of After**
By: Jennifer Castle
HarperTeen, 2011
9780061985799
Curriculum: Grief; Interpersonal relations; High schools; Schools

For Sixteen-year-old Laurel, her junior year is busy. She is preparing for college and looking forward to prom. But in an instant her entire life is turned upside down after a car accident takes the lives of her parents and brother.

Reviewed by: Michelle Jensen
Thomas Jefferson H.S.

**Cleopatra’s Moon**

**The Watch That Ends the Night**
By: Allan Wolf
Candlewick, 2011
ISBN: 9780763637033
Curriculum: Titanic, Novels in Verse

Twenty-four lives featured in a variety of vignettes are full of prosperity for the poor, promises of luxury for the wealthy and a chance for freedom for all. Dreams so alive and strong are countered by the vision of the iceberg, determined to send the mighty Titanic to the bottom of the sea. Written in a variety of perspectives this novel is highly recommended for both classroom and pleasure reading.

Reviewed by: Cheri Hilton
South H.S.

**Tempest Rising**
Tempest Maguire is a hardcore surfer girl who has taken care of her dad and brothers since her mother left the family six years ago. Tempest resents her mother's choice, but the note her mother left behind makes it clear that she will soon face the same choice: stay on land with her family, or choose the sea, where her mermaid mother battles against the sea witch. As her birthday grows nearer and a new mysterious boy threatens to come between Tempest and her boyfriend, her choice becomes more difficult.

Reviewed by: Sudi Stodola
CEC Middle College

Nonfiction

Requiem: Poems of the Terezin Ghetto
By: Paul Janeczko
Candlewick, 2011
ISBN: 978076347278
Curriculum: Holocaust; Poetry

Friends devoted to one another, now separated because it is illegal for Germans to fraternize with Jews. Families are ravished as each member hears the sad and lonely whistle of the train taking loved ones to their death. Townspeople slip bread crusts to starving children. Soldiers dedicated to their duty committing unspeakable tasks. All revealing their thoughts hopes and worries through poetry, as each pass through the ghetto of Terezin, in a strange and violent Requiem.

Reviewed by: Cheri Hilton
South H.S.

Dear Editor: I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says "If you see it in The Sun it's so." Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus? Virginia O’Hanlon.

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men’s or children’s, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginia-as. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry. no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that’s no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby’s rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

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