



The Review Crew

What's New and Great for Our Youngest Readers?

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

Review Crew Volume 2 No. 3

January 2006

Fiction

Leaf Man

Written and illustrated by:
Lois Ehlert
Harcourt, 2005
ISBN: 0152053042



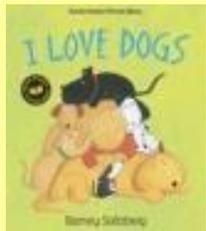
Curriculum: Leaves; Nature

In this cleverly designed book a man, made entirely of leaves, is carried by the wind; past the chickens, over the ducks and geese, above the orchards, etc., all of which are made of colorful leaves. The reader is reminded that, "a Leaf Man's got to go where the wind blows," and that if you hear a rustle in the leaves, "Maybe you'll find a Leaf Man waiting to go home with you."

Reviewed by: Steve Bowley
Beach Court Elem.

I Love Dogs

Written and illustrated by:
Barney Saltzberg
Candlewick Press, 2005
ISBN: 0763625876



Curriculum: Pets; Feelings

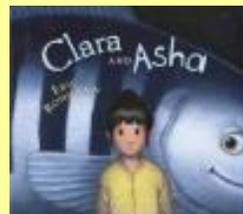
Simple rhyming text celebrates all kinds

of dogs and provides a good age-appropriate model for descriptive writing. The pencil, ink and acrylic illustrations are warm and endearing. The cover-weight pages provide a sturdy format with room for more story than board books. Cat lovers will enjoy the companion book, *I Love Cats* by the same author.

Reviewed by: Penny Cunningham
Valdez Elem.

Clara and Asha

Written and illustrated by:
Eric Rohmann
Roaring Brook Press, 2005
ISBN: 1596430311



Curriculum: Imaginary friends

Little Clara imagines that the giant fish in the park's fountain follows her home where she further imagines many situations with Asha by her side. On the night of the story Clara is supposed to be sleeping, but is blowing soap bubbles instead. Clara floats out the window on a bubble, accompanied by Asha as she flies around in the starlit sky. Roh-

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Who are we?

- ☺ More than a dozen teacher librarians and literacy experts from elementary schools through 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 303-405-8131 to order.)

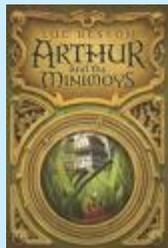
Want to read more reviews? See the instructions on page 4.

The Best for Upper Elementary Readers! Many of these books will work in middle school, too.!

Fiction

Arthur and the Minimoy

By: Luc Besson
HarperCollins, 2005
ISBN:0-06-059624-4



Curriculum: Missing persons; Magic; Adventure and adventures; Fantasy

Ten-year-old Arthur has gone in search of his grandfather, who has been missing four years. Arthur must solve the clues to find a hidden message which leads him into the land of the Minimoy, a tribe of one inch tall people. There he must battle mosquito-riding warriors and

defeat an evil wizard. But, where is Grandfather?

Reviewed by: Marilyn Martin
Park Hill

Nonfiction

Boy, Were We Wrong about Dinosaurs!

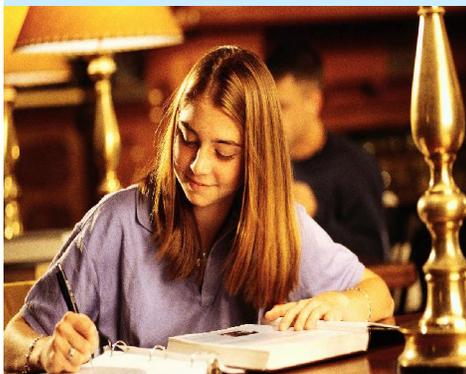
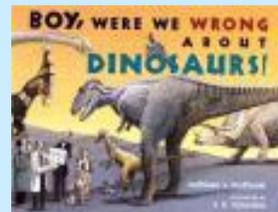
By: Kathleen Kudlinski
Illustrated by: S.D. Schlindler
Dutton Children's Books, 2005
ISBN: 525469788

Curriculum: Dinosaurs; Science History

The ancient Chinese uncovered dinosaur bones and thought they were the bones of

a magic dragon, boy were they wrong! It turns out that many modern day ideas about dinosaurs are just as wrong as the beliefs of the ancient Chinese. Each two-page spread of this book details common beliefs about dinosaurs and then offers alternative possibilities using illustrations and clear, non-technical explanations. Because of its clarity and novel content *Boy, Were We Wrong about Dinosaurs* is a must have for libraries.

Reviewed by: Cherryl Sage
Cheltenham Elem.



Fiction

Defiance

By: Valerie Hobbs
Frances Foster Books, 2005
ISBN:
0374308470



Curriculum: Cancer; Interpersonal Relationships

Middle School Reader Gold Mine

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

Toby has been in and out of cancer treatments for most of his eleven years so when he finds another lump while he is on vacation in the country, he decides not to tell anyone about it.

Reviewed by: Chris Coble
Kepner Middle School

The Hollow: The Horseman

By: Christopher Golden and Ford Lytle Gilmore
Razor Bill, 2005
ISBN:1595140247

Curriculum: Legend of Sleepy Hollow; Headless Horseman; horror stories;

This four book series, *The Hollow*, develops and elaborates on the story of Ichabod Crane and the Legend of Sleepy Hollow. The first in the series, *The Horseman*, begins when Shane and Aimee Lancaster move to the town of Sleepy Hollow. Their arrival sparks a change in the town and they learn that Ichabod Crane was their ancestor and that



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Beginning Readers, continued from p. 1

mann's dreamlike illustrations help the reader imagine along with Clara.

Reviewed by: Steve Bowley
Beach Court Elem.

You are my miracle

By: Maryann Cusimano Love

Illustrated by: Ichikawa Satomi
Philomel, 2005

ISBN: 0-399-24037-3

Curriculum: Christmas; Stories in rhyme

In this wonderful addition to the holiday genre, each verse and warm, colorful illustration in this story is full of love, joy, tenderness, and a wonderful collection of stuffed animals. "I am your hot cocoa; you are my marshmallow. I am your nutcracker; you are my cookie dough." Papa Bear and Baby Bear spend some fun time together in Christmas preparations before falling



asleep to wait for the special day.

Reviewed by: Irene W. Bell
Bryant Webster K-8

Oscar's First Flight

By: Kat Zimmerman

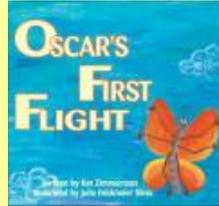
Illustrated by: Julie Feldmeier Sims

Kat Tales Publishing, 2005

Curriculum: Insects; Pollution; Environment

Oscar the butterfly is enjoying his first day of flight when a fan blows him into an oily puddle. The other butterflies do some problem solving that finally works to clean his wings so Oscar's first day of flying isn't his last. At the back of the book are extension activities, a beautiful butterfly stencil to use in art projects, and three cards with simple but interesting science experiments. This will be useful both as a writing model and as a literature connection to science.

Reviewed by: Penny Cunningham
Valdez Elem.



Hiding Hoover

By: Elise Broach

Illustrated by: Laura Huliska-Beith

Dial Books, 2005

ISBN:0-8037-2706-2

Curriculum: Dragons; Pets; Problem-solving

Daddy always said, "No pets." But then the children find Hoover, in the back yard eating dandelions. They are determined to keep him. How can they hide a dragon from their father? Not under the bed, not in a closet. However, they do discover imaginative ways to disguise Hoover!

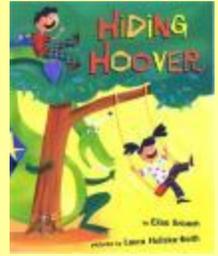
Reviewed by: Marilyn Martin
Park Hill

Carolinda Clatter!

Written and illustrated by: Mordicai Gerstein

Roaring Brook Press, 2005

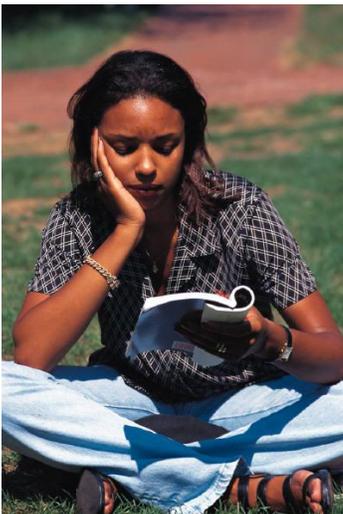
Continued on p. 4



Young Adults Deserve the Best!

Then why is this space empty?

And where are the Spanish reviews?



Every month each member of the Review Crew reads and writes reviews for at least fifteen books at a variety of levels. Only the best of these are included in this newsletter. Some months (like this one) it just works out that no one has read an outstanding book in one of our categories. As for Spanish books, we don't receive many of these from the publishers. We know that these reviews are important and will include them as often as possible.

ISBN: 159643063x

Curriculum: Fantasy

Long ago a lonely giant falls in love with the impassive moon. He woos her, dancing in her silvery light. Until at last, ragged and weary he falls into a deep slumber transforming into a lush green mountain. When Carolina Clatter is born villagers tell her to "Hush" and "Be quiet!" for fear of waking the sleeping giant. But noisy Carolina can't be silenced, and when the sleeping giant is roused only Carolina can save her little village in this incredibly sweet story.



Reviewed by: Janet Damon
Oakland Elem.

Nonfiction

Touch It!: Materials, Matter and You

By: Adrienne Mason

Illustrated by: Claudia Davila

Kids Can Press, 2005

ISBN: 1553377605



Curriculum: Materials; Matter; Physical science

The *Primary Physical Science* series of books for young readers does a very nice job of introducing physical science in a simple and clear manner. In *Touch It!*, students will learn about texture, mass and stretchiness of different materials as well as magnetic and floating materials. The text really draws the reader in with questions about how

he was responsible for creating the Headless Horseman. It becomes a matter of life and death when the Headless Horseman comes after them. The series is continued in *Drowned, Mischief, and Enemies*.

Reviewed by: Carol Chapman
Morey Middle School

Nonfiction

Rocks and fossils:

A visual guide

By: Robert R.

Coenraads

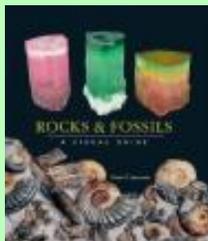
A Firefly Book,
2005

ISBN: 1554070686

Curriculum: Science; Geology; Rocks; Fossils; Gemstones

This book covers everything most readers can dream up about rocks, fossils, geology, and gem stones. The book is filled with rich photographs. Even readers who never thought about rocks at all will be fascinated by this book.

Reviewed by: Chris Coble
Kepner Middle School



the science explained is shown in the pictures and many easy-to-follow experiments. This book will definitely support teachers using the physical science strand of the new science curriculum.

Reviewed by: Laurie Bell
Brown Elementary

Want more?

To read longer reviews of these books and hundreds of others:

- ◆ Go to LION, our online library catalog, at <http://lion.dpsk12.org>
- ◆ Click on "ERS Home" on the menu at the left side of the screen.
- ◆ Under "Browse Catalogs & Databases" click on "DPS Review Database."
- ◆ Under "Link to Review Database," click on "Review Database."
- ◆ Ignore the member log-in boxes. Click on "Advanced Search"
- ◆ You can search for words in the title, author, curriculum connections, and more. (To see your choices, click on the blue down arrow at the end of the box that says "Title." Use as few as one search criterion or as many as four, one in each box.
- ◆ Once you have a list of titles, click on a title to see a full review.

Reviews from other sources such as School Library Journal and Horn Book are now available through LION, our online library catalog. Check it out!

- ◆ Go to LION (see above)
- ◆ Search for a book by title, subject, or however you want.
- ◆ When you get to the book records, if there is a dark blue button called "More About This Book", click on it.

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