



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 5

January 2011

Fiction

In Front Of My House

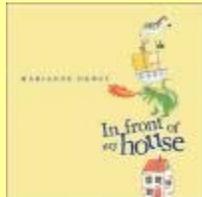
Written and illus. by: Mari-
anne Bubuc

Kids Can Press, 2010
ISBN: 9781554536412

*Curriculum: Circle story;
Imagination; Traveling*

This circle story follows a child's very vivid imagination as he starts at his house on the little hill, which leads him to a fairy tale book under his bed, to an extraterrestrial on a distant planet, and back to the boy's house again. This story can help students learn to make connections, even in unusual ways at times.

Reviewed by: Leah Rounds
Alumni



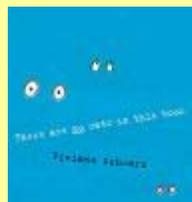
There are no cats in this book

Written and illus. by: Viviane
Schwarz

Candlewick Press, 2010
9780763649548

*Curriculum: Cats, Moveable
books*

Tiny, Andre and Moonpie, the main characters from *There Are Cats in this Book*, are anxious to get out of the book and 'see the world.' They push, jump and wish themselves out of the book on every double-page spread. They do manage to get out and have great



adventures, but thankfully, don't stay away for too long.

Reviewed by: Dana Clark
Greenwood Elem.

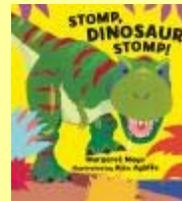
Stomp, Dinosaur, Stomp!

By: Margaret Mayo
Illus. by: Alex Ayliffe
Walker & Company, 2010
ISBN: 9780802721952

Curriculum: Dinosaurs

The zooming plesiosaurus, gliding pteranodon, and guarding oviraptor are but a few of the dinosaurs that readers will encounter as they move across the land. Each of eleven dinosaurs is depicted with vivid, two-page illustrations and a predictable text pattern that provides information on the featured dinosaur. Young dinosaur fans will be drawn in by the size and colors of the illustrations and will enjoy these familiar dinosaurs presented in a unique fashion.

Reviewed by: Karyn Pocerlich
Ford Elem.



Jake Goes Peanuts

Written and illus. by: Mi-
chael Wright
Fiewel and Friends, 2010
ISBN: 9780312549671

*Curriculum: Peanut butter;
Eating habits*

Jake's love of peanut butter has gotten out of control and his parents must take action! When they decide to have peanut butter as part of every family meal for a



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.)

whole week, Jake realizes that there are other good foods out there and changes his ways. This third adventure of Jake and his parents hilariously takes readers through their long peanut-butter-filled week. As usual, the illustrations and small details provide humor in addition to the storyline itself.

Reviewed by: Karyn Pocernich
Ford Elem.

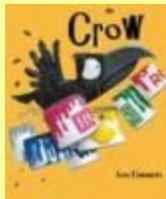
Crow

Written and illus by:

Leo Timmers
Clavis, 2010

ISBN: 9781605370712

Curriculum: *Crows; Individuality; Acceptance*



Three small colorful birds fear big black crow. "Not even a touch of color...He's not to be trusted." They run in terror when Crow copies their colors trying to appeal. A torrent of tears washes the colors from his plumage. The feather heads return, declaring him a hero for scaring away the giant chickadee, parakeet and finch. Bold illustrations punctuate this tale of individuality and acceptance.

Reviewed by: Cat DeRose
Trevista ECE-8

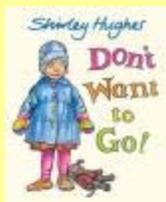
Don't Want to Go

Written and illus by:

Shirley Hughes
Candlewick Press, 2010

ISBN: 9780763650919

Curriculum: *Daycare; Families*



Lily's mom doesn't want to get up because she is so sick. Dad has to go to work. Lily has to go to a neighbor's house for the day. "Don't want to go," says Lily. However, it turns out to be so much fun that when Dad comes to take Lily home she says, "Don't want to go."

Reviewed by: Marilyn Martin
Park Hill Elem.

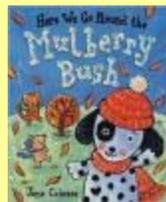
Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush

Written and Illus. by:

Jane Cabrera
Holiday House, 2010

ISBN: 9870825422883

Curriculum: *Children's songs; Nursery rhymes*



Two adorable dalmatian puppies wake up, brush their teeth, get dressed, march to school, play in the school yard, read and write, jump and skip, hop home from school, and bounce on huge balls "all on a cold and frosty day." A wonderful new version of an old and popular nursery rhyme, "Here we go round the mulberry bush, the mulberry bush, the mulberry bush.

Here we go round the mulberry bush, on a cold and frosty morning."

Reviewed by: Irene Bell
Alumni

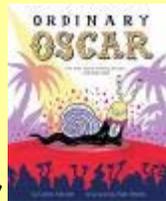
Ordinary Oscar

By: Laura Adkins

Illus. by: Sam Hearn
Tiger Tales, 2010

ISBN: 9781589250857

Curriculum: *Snails; Being different*



Oscar is an ordinary greenish-grayish-brownish snail who sleeps all day and eats all night. But, he is bored with his life and craves some excitement. He wants to be famous and thus seeks the wisdom of the Wise Old Snail who tells him what to do. A very beautiful Fairy Godsnail appears and grants him three wishes with the warning to choose carefully. What happens next is hilarious and almost tragic.

Reviewed by: Irene Bell
Alumni

Libraries are the one American institution you shouldn't rip off.

Barbara Kingsolver

Nonfiction

Erin and Her New Pet: the Sound of the Short E

By: Joanne Meier
and Cecilia Minden

Illus. by: Bob
Ostrom

The Child's World, 2011
9781602533981

Curriculum: *Language arts; Phonetics*
Readers will learn about the short E sound with Erin and her new pet as they explore their neighborhood.

Reviewed by: Dana Clark
Greenwood Elem.

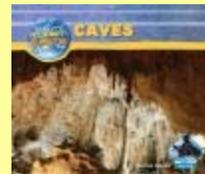


Caves

By: Marcia Zappa
Abdo, 2011

ISBN:
9781616134907

Curriculum: *Caves; Rocks; Exploration*



Giving young researchers a brief introduction to caves, this title explores how different types of caves are formed, various cave features, and creatures that live in caves. The human impact on cave environments is also examined. The two reviewed titles in the *Planet Earth* series have terrific photographs and are suitable for simple research. 2nd and 3rd graders will find just enough information for basic reports. A publisher sponsored website offers additional resources.

Reviewed by: Nancy Lucas
JFK H.S.

If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need.

Cicero

The Best for Upper Elementary Readers!

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

Fiction

Spanish!

Y Tu Dragon ¿Como Es?

Written and illus. by: Jackie Morris
Thule, 2009
ISBN: 9788492595211



Curriculum: Dragons; Fantasy
Different kinds of dragons are described in abstract ways and accompanied with very colorful watercolor paintings. One dragon is as large as a city and is colored like streaks of clouds and golden dust, while another is very small with wings as thin as sighs.

Reviewed by: Leah Rounds
Alumni

Nonfiction

Adverbs

By: Ann Heinrichs
Illus. by: Dan McGeehan and David Moore
The Child's World, 2011
ISBN: 9781602534261



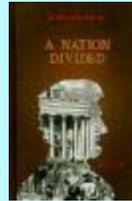
Curriculum: Language arts; *Adverbs*
This text explains that 'adverbs describe how, when or where'. It includes sample sentences that are

coupled with funny illustrations, reminiscent of characters in School House Rock's 'Lolly, Lolly, Lolly, Get your Adverbs Here'.

Reviewed by: Dana Clark
Greenwood Elem.

A Nation Divided: The Long Road to the Civil War

By: Don Nardo
Compass Point, 2011
ISBN: 9780756543679



Curriculum: Civil War-causes; Slavery; Secession; Abraham Lincoln

This title relates the events and years leading up to the Civil War in terms that 5th-6th grade students can understand. Starting with the economic differences and the slavery issues between the North and South in the 1850s and concluding with the attack on Fort Sumter, the tensions and sentiments that sparked the bloodiest American war are examined. Upper elementary students (and older) looking for more information will find a list of additional resources and the author's impressive source notes and bibliography.

Reviewed by: Nancy Lucas
JFK H.S.

I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library.
Jorge Luis Borges

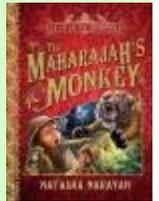
Middle School Reader Gold Mine

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

Fiction

The Maharajah's Monkey

By: Natasha Narayan
Quercus, 2010
ISBN: 9781847245298



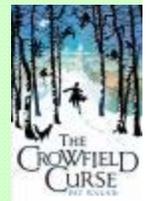
Curriculum: Mystery; India; Shambala; Aunts; Friendship

The adventures of Kit Salter continue in this second book. Her aunt Hilda is distraught when explorer Gustav Champion disappears. Kit offers to help find him and solve the mystery of a stolen treasure. This leads to a trip to India with her three friends and a big adventure. They go to the Maharajah's palace, into the jungle and into the mountains. Kit gets separated from the others and finds the lost village of Shambala. There is danger and intrigue along the way.

Reviewed by: Karen Burns
Place Bridge Academy

The Crowfield Curse

By: Pat Walsh
Chicken House, 2010
ISBN: 9780545229227
Curriculum: Historic fiction; Fairies; Orphans



When William comes across a magical creature caught in a trap, he brings the hob home to mend his wounds; but this only the first magical creature William will encounter. Soon, a masked guest

arrives at the abbey with his servant in tow and they intend to have William help them to find the strange creature that is buried in the cursed woods before it is found by the Unseelie King. This edgy and compelling tale of dark magic in the Middle Ages is a dark and dangerous page-turner. Reviewed by: Sudi Stodola TJH.S.

Dirt Road Home

By: Watt Key
Farrar Straus Giroux,
2010

ISBN: 9780374308636

Curriculum: *Reformatories;*

Gangs; Violence; Correctional personnel; Fathers and sons; Alabama

Sentenced to hard time in an Alabama reformatory, Hal realizes he'll have to keep his hair trigger temper in check. His refusal to join either prison gang makes him a target. Having earned the respect of unlikely allies, they conspire to expose the corrupt and violent prison administrators. This companion novel to the acclaimed *Alabama Moon* features a character with heart.

Reviewed by: Cat DeRose
Trevista ECE-8



Ellie Ever

By: Nancy Ruth Patterson
Farrar Straus Giroux,
2010

ISBN: 9780374321086

Curriculum: *Homelessness; Rumors*

How do you tell the snobby girls at the private school that you are a charity child, not a princess? Will anyone be your friend when you tell the truth? Ellie's home and family were devastated in a hurricane, now she and her mom are making a new start with the help of some generous benefactors.

Reviewed by: Chris Coble
Kepner M.S.



A Finders-Keepers Place

By: Ann Haywood Leal
Holt, 2010

ISBN: 9780805088823

Curriculum: *Mental illness; Sisters*

Ester and Ruth's mom is knocking the walls out of their house. In her mind she is making improvements to their home. To Ester and Ruth she is getting further and further from reality. When the girls aren't visiting churches, they are using all of their energy to hide what is really going on at home.

Reviewed by: Chris Coble
Kepner M.S.



Nonfiction

Changing Africa

By: Rob Bowden
Heinemann Library, 2010
ISBN: 9781432924379

Curriculum: *Africa; Social Conditions; Economics*

Africa, the world's poorest continent, is slowly working to regain independence from colonizers, build stronger economic futures through the international community and create better lifestyles for its people. While positive changes take effect, many countries are losing ground because of war and the spread of HIV/AIDS. *Changing Africa* describes how the political arena, environmental impact and educational opportunities continue to change Africa in both positive and negative ways. Reviewed by: Cheri Hilton South H.S.



**Libraries: The medicine chest of the soul.
Library at Thebes inscription over the door**

Young Adults Deserve the Best!

Fiction

Z

By: Michael Douglas Ford
Kirkus Review, (2010)

ISBN: 9780060737580

Curriculum: *Action; Adventure; Zombies; Post-Apocalypse*

When another gamer convinces Josh to join a secret group that turns virtual reality into real-life action, Josh soon finds himself drawn into a dangerous world of gambling, drugs, and murder. This is a good read for fans of zombie fiction looking for some excitement and action. The thrills are non-stop, with danger lurking in every chapter. A good recommendation for fans of science fiction, action, and post-apocalyptic fiction.

Reviewed by: Sudi Stodola
TJ H.S.



The Gardener

By: S.A. Bodeen
Feiwel and Friends, 2010
ISBN: 9780312370169

Curriculum: *Environmental Experiments; Single Parent Families; Fathers; Science Fiction*

In the midst of making a decision about colleges for next year, Mason is confused about why his mom is so against the local science corporation TroDyn's scholarship offer. Complications escalate when he visits his mom at work at the town's assisted care facility and ends up unexpectedly "kid-napping" a teen resident. Now the



decision about where to attend school next year is nothing compared to the grotesque decisions that people must make to save humankind.

Reviewed by: Cheri Hilton
South H.S.

Stranded

By: J.T. Dutton
HarperTeen, 2010

ISBN: 9780061370823

Curriculum: Moving; Abandoned children; Grandmothers; Cousins

Fifteen-year-old Kelly Louise moves from Des Moines to live with her Nana in Heaven, Iowa. Now she has to deal with her Nana who is a compulsive cleaner and her deeply religious cousin. Kelly becomes involved in a mystery involving an abandoned baby in a cornfield. After learning that her teenage cousin is the baby's mother, Kelly must weigh telling the truth with putting her family's reputation at stake.

Dr. Lynne Lopez-Crowley
MSLA

Blood Feud

By: Alyxandra Harvey
Walker, 2010

ISBN: 9780802720979

Curriculum: Vampires; Siblings; Interpersonal relations

Various vampire clans are coming together for the coronation of the new vampire queen. Isabeau has been sent as a delegate from the Hound clan, a clan that is misunderstood because of the magic it practices and its close connections to animals. When Leander Montmartre, an evil vampire, threatens the events, Isabeau must stop him while proving the worthiness of her clan.

Reviewed by: Dr. Lynne Lopez-Crowley
MSLA



Series Books

Scream Street

by Tommy Donbavand
6—8 Fiction

When Luke Watson turns into a werewolf for the third time, he and his parents are moved to Scream Street, where they and other "unusual lifeforms" are trapped unless Luke and his friends can find six powerful relics hidden by the founding fathers before sinister landlord, Sir Otto, does.

The Amazing Human body

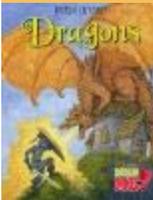
By: Various Authors
6—8 Nonfiction
Marshall Cavendish (2010)
Filled with color photographs and diagrams, this series offers detailed overviews of the systems of the body.

Keeping unusual Pets

by Various Authors
3—5 Nonfiction
Explains the responsibilities and rewards of keeping a pet.

Mythical Creatures

By Various Authors
3—5 Nonfiction
What is a mythical creature? This series examines several.



Review Crew Staff

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JFK High School

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