



# The Review Crew

## What's New and Great for Our Youngest Readers?

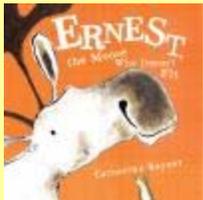
Brought to you by the Denver Public Schools Book Review Committee.

Volume 7 Number 7  
March 2011

## Fiction

### Ernest, the Moose Who Doesn't Fit

Written and Illus. By: Catherine Rayner  
Farrar Straus Giroux, 2009  
ISBN: 9780374322175

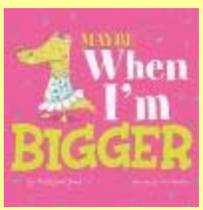


*Curriculum: Moose; Size; Cooperation*  
Ernest is a RATHER LARGE moose. He is so LARGE that he can't fit inside this book. After struggling unsuccessfully to wedge his frame into the pages' confines, he and his little chipmunk friend tape together scraps of paper to create a gate-fold finale that accommodates Ernest's considerable corpus. The intended primary audience will fall for this sweet antlered hero and his chipper companion.

Reviewed by: Cat DeRose  
Trevista ECE-8

### Maybe When I'm Bigger

By: Christianne Jones  
Illus. by: Mark Chambers  
Picture Window Books, 2011  
ISBN: 9781404861688



*Curriculum: Growing Up; Responsibility*

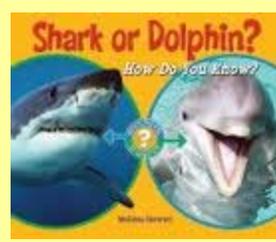
Janey can do many things by herself, but when she hears she is not yet big enough for some things she decides she's not big enough to do her chores either. It isn't until she wants to be a big girl and go to school that she must accept being too young for some things is okay.

Reviewed by: Leah Rounds  
Alumni

## Nonfiction

### Shark or Dolphin? How Do You Know?

By: Melissa Stewart  
Enslow Publishers, 2011  
ISBN: 9780766036802



*Curriculum: Sharks; Dolphins*

How can you tell the difference between a shark and a dolphin? There are at least six differences. These include fish or mammal, scales or no scales, gills or lungs, pup or calf. Now for the test to see if you really know the differ-

### 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.)

ence: whale shark vs. killer whale.

Reviewed by: Marilyn Martin

Park Hill Elem.

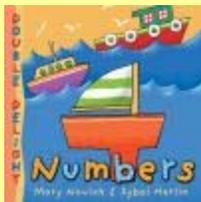
### Numbers

By: Mary Novick  
and Sybel Harlin  
Little Hare Books,  
2007

ISBN:  
9781877003578

*Curriculum: Mathematics; Numbers*  
This is a lift-the-flap book which takes learning numbers to a whole different level of comprehension. Students will delight to see each number change its shape into something creative, like a boat or a duck. It is one title in the series, *Double Delight*.

Reviewed by: Dana Clark  
Greenwood Elementary



### An A-MAZE-ING ZOO ADVENTURE

By: Jill Kalz  
Illus. by: Mattia  
Cerato

Picture Window  
Books, 2011  
ISBN: 9781404860247

*Curriculum: Puzzles; Mazes*  
This book presents puzzles for the student to figure out. They must use their finger and trace their way through mazes filled with bridges, staircases and other tricky items, designed to trip them up.

Reviewed by: Dana Clark  
Greenwood Elementary



### The Eco-Student's Guide to Being Green at School

By: J. Angelique  
Johnson

Picture Window Books, 2011  
ISBN: 9781404860278

*Curriculum: Environmentalism; Sustainable living; Green movement*

Identifying some of the most common ways to save your school and teacher's money while protecting the environment at the same time, this text shows how riding your bike to school, checking out books from the library and finding ways to make assignments paperless can make a big impact on helping you to live a green lifestyle.

Reviewed by: Cheri Hilton  
South H.S.



### The Life Cycle of a Chicken

By: Colleen Sexton  
Bellwether Media, 2011  
ISBN: 9780531263594

*Curriculum: Chickens; Life Cycles; Farm Animals*

The life cycle of a chicken from egg to adult stage is explained and accompanied with related photographs. The book is designed by literacy experts to reinforce fluency and vocabulary for beginning readers.

Reviewed by: Leah Rounds  
Alumni



## The Best for Upper Elementary

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

## Fiction

### Edgar Allen's Official Crime Investigation Notebook

By: Mary Amato  
Holiday House, 2010  
ISBN: 9780823422715

*Curriculum: Friendship; Poetry; School*

Someone is stealing objects from Ms. Herschel's classroom, not the least of which is the classroom goldfish. In place of the objects the thief leaves a poem. Edgar is positive he can solve the mystery. Along the way he befriends two of the class misfits. The three of them become a powerful force.

Reviewed by: Chris Coble  
Kepner M.S.



## Nonfiction

### England

By: Walter Simmons  
Children's Press, 2011  
ISBN: 9780531264607



*Curriculum: England; London; Tower of London; Guy Fawkes Day; English Channel*

This title explores England's land, wildlife, and food as well as how adults and children spend their time. Also discussed are England's holidays and landmarks. Highlighted are Guy Fawkes Day and English slang. The Level 5 *Blast Off! Readers* are designed for 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> graders. Students needing brief, concise information on countries will appreciate the 20 titles available in the *Exploring Countries* series. Each title offers a list of additional books to read and a publisher sponsored website.

Reviewed by: Nancy Lucas  
JFK H.S.

### Venus

By: L. L. Owens  
Child's World,  
2011



ISBN:  
9781609543907

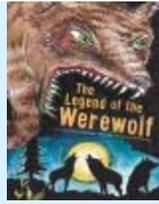
*Curriculum: Venus; Planets; Sun*

Venus, known as Earth's twin planet, is examined in this title. Its composition and atmosphere, its location in our solar system, and some of its extreme geography are explored. Basic facts such as the length of Venus's day and year, temperature extremes, and distance from the sun are also given. The 10 titles available in the *Space Neighbors* series offer 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade researchers just enough for basic reports. A list of additional books and a publisher sponsored website is included.

Reviewed by: Nancy Lucas  
JFK H.S.

### Legend of the Werewolf

By: Thomas Kingsley  
Troupe



Illus. by: D. C. Ice  
Picture Window Books, 2011  
ISBN: 9781404860339

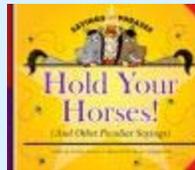
*Curriculum: Werewolves; Legends; Monsters*

The moon is full. In the distance something is howling. Could it be a werewolf? There are stories around the world that tell of werewolves. Could these legends be true? Is it just a dog howling at the moon - or is it a werewolf?

Reviewed by: Marilyn Martin  
Park Hill Elem.

### Hold your Horses (and Other Peculiar Sayings)

By: Cynthia  
Amoroso



Illus. by: Mernie Gallagher-Cole  
The Child's World, 2011  
ISBN: 9781602536814

*Curriculum: Sayings; Idioms*

This book is part of a language arts series titled, *Sayings and Phrases*. It is filled with commonly used idioms that are explained through illustrations and sample sentences. Children who are not native speakers will enjoy learning the nuances of the English language through real life situations.

Reviewed by: Dana Clark  
Greenwood Elementary

### How Did That Get in my Lunchbox?

By: Chris Butterworth



Illus. by: Lucia Gaggiotti  
ISBN: 9780763650056

*Curriculum: Food; Nutrition*

Ever wonder about what it takes for your lunch to be made? Watch here how an apple turns into apple juice, chocolate is produced and ends up in a cookie, or how milk from cows is used in the cheese on a sandwich. The retro illustrations and good nutritional information provided - without seeming like a science book - will make this an appealing book for readers. They will definitely come away more informed and knowing that food "doesn't grow in stores."

Reviewed by: Karyn Pocernich  
Ford Elem.

### An A-Maze-ing Amusement Park Adventure

By: Jill Kalz



Illus. by: Mattia Cerato  
Picture Window Books, 2011  
ISBN: 9781404860230

*Curriculum: Amusement parks; Map reading; Maze puzzles*

Mazes covering all corners of an amusement park are sure to entertain readers for quite some time.

Whether they head to the Jungle Boat water ride, the Ripple Rumble roller coaster, or the Redline Speedway, the fun part is trying to get out! Using their finger as their guide, readers must maneuver around obstacles in their path and hurry to the next part of the park. They won't even realize the practice they are getting with ordinal directions and problem solving, but teachers will.

Reviewed by: Karyn Pocernich  
Ford Elem.

**Cool Sandwich  
Food Art: Easy  
Recipes That Make  
Food Fun to Eat!**



By: Nancy Tu-  
minelly

Abdo, 2011

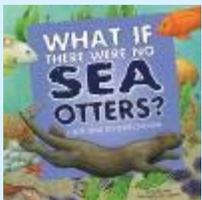
ISBN: 9781616133665

*Curriculum: Sandwiches; Food pres-  
entation*

Maybe you aren't supposed to play with your food, but this book presents some of the most entertaining sandwiches around: Among them a Peanut Butter and Jelly Flower, a Tuna Boat, and the Cat's Meowich. Fun, colorful illustrations and a complete visual list of all the needed ingredients make this a book everyone will love to use.

Reviewed by: Gretchen Allgeier  
Stedman Elem.

**What if There Were no Sea Ot-  
ters? A Book  
about the Ocean  
Ecosystem**



Picture Window,  
2011

ISBN: 9781404860186

By: Suanne Slade

Illus. by: Carol Schwartz

After explaining and illustrating the food chain and food web to which the sea otter belongs, the furry little creature is taken out of the picture. The result of the missing otter is explained and illustrated; no crabs, no clusters of clams, no graceful fish, too little plant life, too many sea stars and hungry sea urchins. A very different ocean.

Reviewed by: Gretchen Allgeier  
Stedman Elementary

**Growing Patterns:  
Fibonacci Numbers  
in Nature**



By: Sarah C. Camp-  
bell

Boyd's Mills Press, 2010

ISBN: 9781590787526

*Curriculum: Fibonacci numbers;  
Mathematics in nature*

An excellent choice for elementary gifted and talented students, *Growing Patterns*, has simple text paired with the incredibly difficult topic of Fibonacci numbers. Concrete graphs presented with clear explanations of the basic numbers of Fibonacci 1,1,2,3,5,8,13, lead the reader slowly through the calculation process to see these complex patterns in nature.

Reviewed by: Cheri Hilton  
South H.S.

**I find television  
to be very edu-  
cating. Every  
time somebody  
turns on the  
set, I go in the  
other room and  
read a book.**

**Groucho Marx**

## Middle School Reader Gold Mine

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

## Fiction

**Paranormalcy**

By: Kiersten White

Harper Teen, 2010

ISBN: 9780061985843

*Curriculum: Supernatu-  
ral; Prophecies; Fairies; Relation-  
ships*



Evie has spent most of her life in the IPCA (International Paranormal Containment Agency.) She has the ability to see through people to find the vampires and werewolves. Then she meets Lend, a shapeshifter, and begins to find out things about herself. There is an evil, but good looking fairy that is trying to turn her. She might be the one the prophecy refers to that promises destruction to many. Her love of life, her new friends and Lend may be strong enough to help her make the right decisions.

Reviewed by: Karen Burns  
Place Bridge Academy

**White Crane**

By: Sandy Fussell

Candlewick Press, 2010

ISBN: 9780763645038



*Curriculum: Japan; Samurai; Disabilities; Overcoming obstacles*

"Can a one-legged boy become a great samurai warrior?" This is the question that Niya Moto asks himself. He and other misfits have joined together at the school taught by the legendary warrior Ki-Yaga. There is a blind boy, a boy with one hand and even a girl at this school. Ki-Yaga calls them the Cockroach Ryu, because it is hard to defeat a cockroach. They must learn to work together in order to face the students from the Dragon Ryu and win the trainee games. They have always come in last, but will this year be different?

Reviewed by: Karen Burns  
Place Bridge Academy

### **Grounded**

By: Kate Klise  
Feiwel and Friends,  
2010  
ISBN:  
9780312570392



*Curriculum: Grief; Swindlers and swindling; Missouri history*

When family members die in a plane crash, Daralynn divides her life into B.C, Before the Crash, and A.D., After the Deaths. Her stalwart mother copes by working as a hairdresser for the funeral parlor. Daralynn proposes "putting the *fun* back in funeral" by holding services for the living. Her humor and pluck, and the unique storyline, will be appreciated by middle school readers.

Reviewed by: Cat DeRose  
Trevista ECE-8

### **Storm Mountain**

By: Tom Birdseye  
Holiday House, 2010  
ISBN: 9780823421305



*Curriculum: Survival; Mountaineering; Blizzards*

It has been two years since Kat's father and his twin brother died mountain climbing. Kat's cousin, Ty, appears one evening determined to take his dad's ashes to the top of the mountain and spread them. He wants Kat to join him and spread her dad's ashes as well. When Kat refuses Ty steals her dad's ashes and begins his ascent of Storm Mountain. When Kat realizes her father's ashes have been stolen she takes off after Ty. When she finally reaches him the mountain begins to show its dangerous personality. Will the two survive the perils the mountain has in store for them?

This story is very fast paced and is a good choice for reluctant readers. While the odds seem a bit too much in their favor, the engagement of the reader will overcome this.

Reviewed by: Dr. Lynne Lopez-Crowley  
MSLA

### **Secondhand charm**

By: Julie Berry  
Bloomsbury, 2010  
ISBN: 9781599905112



*Curriculum: Fantasy; Sea serpents; Friendship*

Evie has a reputation as a healer in her small village but she desires more than to be a healer in a small village. She wants to go to the university. A chance of fate gives her that opportunity. The journey to the university is fraught with peril and before she reaches her destination she no longer recognizes the person she has become.

Reviewed by: Chris Coble  
Kepner M.S.

## **Review Crew Staff**

### **Committee Chair:**

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**JFK High School**

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**Alumni**

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**Karen Shannon**  
**Antonio Nicotera**

# Young Adults Deserve the Best!

## Fiction

### The Unidentified

By: Rae Mariz

Balzer & Bray 2010

ISBN: 9780061802089

*Curriculum: Dystopia;  
Education; Market research; Rebel-  
lion*

It's the future. Education has become privatized and children now go to "The Game," a mall-like environment where learning is structured like video games and the best one can hope for is to become "branded." Corporate sponsorship brings all kinds of benefits, but what happens when a student has no desire to become branded? How successful can a rebellion against trendsetting be when the corporations appropriate anything that catches teenagers' attention?

Reviewed by: Sudi Stodola

TJ H.S.



### The Marbury Lens

By: Andrew Smith

Feiwei and Friends 2010

ISBN: 9780312613426

*Curriculum: Kidnapping;*



*Murder; Mystery; Adventure; Fantasy*  
Jack and his best friend are leaving for London on Monday. Walking home from the going away party, Jack is captured by a serial killer. He escapes, but troubles follow him to London where a stranger hands Jack a pair of glasses that allow him to see into a parallel world where he and two boys are fleeing a band of cannibal mutants and both worlds seem equally real. A well-written, gripping fantasy for horror/fantasy fans, but not appropriate for younger readers because of violence and language.

Reviewed by: Sudi Stodola

TJ H.S.

### Nomansland

By: Lesley Hauge

Henry Holt, 2010

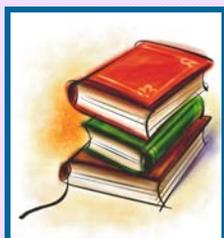
ISBN: 9780805090642

*Curriculum: Science fiction; Women; Amazons*

Set in a dystopian future Keller lives in an all female society on an island called Foundland. She is being trained as a Tracker to protect Foundland from men. Rules in Foundland are strict. Nobody is allowed to cultivate friendships, wear make-up, or engage in frivolity among other things. The society is threatened when one of the girls discovers relics for the "Old People"; fashion magazines, fancy clothes and makeup. When the girls are discovered engaging in frivolity, they are punished so severely that Keller begins to question the only life she has ever known.

Reviewed by: Dr. Lynne Lopez-Crowley

MSLA



# Series Books

### Tiger's Curse



By: Colleen Houck YA

Ryan is an Indian prince turned into a Tiger by a curse. Kelsey must travel across the globe with him to break the

curse. Great recommendation for Twilight and paranormal romance fans.

### Double Delight



By: Mary Novick

PS- 2 Various topics with "flip-a-flaps".

### A-Maze-ing Adventures



By: Mattia Cerato

Various adventures teaching mapping and direction skills.

### Blastoff Readers, 3: Life Cycles



By: Colleen Sexton

PS-2 Young readers can watch as various creatures go through their life cycles.

